Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-167 *30 August 1989*

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FRG Minister Schaefer Visits Central America

AU2708191789 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 26 Aug 89 p 4

["Stg." report: "Schaefer Returns Optimistically From Central America"]

[Excerpts] Mexico City—In the opinion of Schaefer, minister of state in the Foreign Ministry, the opposition in Nicaragua will only have a chance to defeat the Sandinists in the presidential elections if it nominates a joint candidate. So far, however, there have not been any clear indications that this will be achieved. Schaefer visited five Central American states and held talks with the most important representative of the opposition, Vice President Ramirez, Foreign Minister D'Escoto Brockman, and Cardinal Obando y Bravo in Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

Costa Rican President Arias, whom he met in San Jose, is also afraid that the splitting up of the opposition might endanger the democratization in Nicaragua. In contrast to this, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto showed more optimism. He referred to the most recent surveys in Nicaragua. According to them, 30 percent of the persons interviewed are for the Sandinists, 30 percent for the opposition, and 40 percent are still undecided, Schaefer said [passage omitted]

Schaefer was "impressed" by his talk with Salvadoran President Cristiani. He keeps "a cool head and is a man of reconciliation." He is in favor of a dialogue with the Marxist guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, but wants to prepare this better than his predecessor Duarte. [passage omitted]

"Cristiani deserves our support," Schaefer said, but he stressed that he had not concealed the fact that the Salvadoran president's international reputation depends on the protection of human rights in El Salvador.

During his talks in Guatemala, great concern about the increasing influence of the drug mafia was repeatedly expressed. There is a "general fear" of a "Colombianization" of the country. The concern about the increasing influence of the guerrillas in some parts of Guatemala is also growing, Schaefer stated. [passage omitted]

Except for Panama, Schaefer made a cautiously optimistic statement on the further development of the region. "Progress is being made, though it is still slow."

ODCA Head Denounces 'Weak' L.A. Position

PA2608033189 Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Caracas, 25 Aug (AFP)—Venezuelan Hilarion Cardozo, president of the Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA), told journalists in Caracas today that the Latin American governments were "faint-hearted and weak" for not "directly facing" the Panamanian situation.

Cardozo, who just returned from Panama on 24 August, said "There is the imminent risk that General Manuel Antonio Noriega will remain in power indefinitely thanks to the fainthearted and weak position of the Latin American governments and the OAS commission's lack of determination."

"The OAS commission, headed by Diego Armando Cordovez, has not directly faced the problem and has only made weak statements," the Christian Democratic politician said.

"This action will help Noriega gain time, avoid an OAS condemnation, and still be in power by 1 September, after which he will be able to personally head the government or appoint a civilian or military man who supports him," Cardozo said.

The ODCA president urged the governments of the region to "take forceful and decisive measures to prevent the further suffering of the Panamanian people, and to support those who are at a disadvantage, semi-isolated, or repressed, and are fighting for freedom and democracy in Panama."

Correction to Panama Delegate's OAS Speech

PA2508162889

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Panamanian Delegate Asks OAS for 'Protection'," published in the 25 August Latin America DAILY REPORT, page eight:

page eight, column two, last paragraph, line nine: ...we want to have the pleasure of inviting the OAS to attend the democratic event in which we all believe. However, to attain this, the gun pointing at our head—the military maneuvers—must end. They must return our money, our funds. The United States...(rewording for clarity)

Cuba

Castro Receives Baseball Cup Champions

FL2908122089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro received early this morning the Cuban baseball team which proudly represented us at the Ninth Intercontinental Baseball Cup held in Puerto Rico.

Team Captain Antonio Pacheco, (Lourdes Gurriel) and Lazaro Valle—two of the most outstanding players in the competition—presented Fidel with the trophy which declares us champions. [video shows Castro receiving trophy]

Afterward, our commander in chief held a lively conversation with the ball players, journalists, and sports leaders who attended the Puerto Rico competition.

Castro on U.S. Visa Refusal

FL3008030089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Remarks by President Fidel Castro to unidentified journalists at the conclusion of a meeting with the Cuban baseball team returning from the Ninth Intercontinental Baseball Cup held in Puerto Rico; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Castro, in progress] ...the solidarity of the press here and international solidarity. It was stupidity on the part of the Yankees to not issue visas to Cuban journalists and to the Dominican baseball team.

[First reporter] The [words indistinct] spoke against the U.S. pressure. The comrades of the party...

[Castro, interrupting] It's a crime to not let the Dominicans attend. It's a crime. They [the United States] used the pretext that the Dominicans would defect. They are the ones that are promoting defection every day.

[Second reporter] Everyday more [words indistinct] arrive. [Words indistinct due to several journalists speaking at the same time]

[Castro] They are the ones that promote defection from countries like Cuba and now they say they won't let the Dominicans attend the games because they will defect. They are the fathers of defection.

[Third reporter] Commander, do you think that this cup is doubly significant for Cuba because of this?

[Castro] Yes. Yes. It was a competition in which we participated amid a battle against an injustice and arbitrariness. It has a moral significance as well as a sports significance. I think that the people enjoyed it very much.

Havana Cites 'New' U.S. Position Against Panama

FL2908224489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1949 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Commentary by Rogelio del Rio Milian]

[Text] A few days before the 1 September date for the transition of the Presidency in Panama, even though there is still nothing definite on the political future of that nation, the United States, contrary to what was expected, has assumed an attitude of inactivity. After an unusual escalation of maneuvers by U.S. troops that comprise the Southern Command in the isthmian nation, which were on the verge of creating a confrontation with the Panamanian Defense Forces, those movements have now been reduced.

As is now traditional within the framework of the U.S. policy of interference, this inactivity is not precisely an expression of respect for the last decision the OAS made on Panama. The OAS reserved for the Panamanian people the right to resolve the nation's domestic affairs.

The most notable feature of the United States' new position against Panama is that it is not in accordance with what Washington officials have expressed. These officials said that the George Bush administration is currently considering additional sanctions against the isthmian nation.

After the OAS criticized the White House for the measures it applied and for its warlike exercises, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said that the United States will maintain its current anti-Panamanian policy. There is no doubt, then, that the United States—after the OAS thwarted its objective of attaining a consensus to force the resignation of Panama's military chief—continues to search for an excuse that will serve as a pretext for armed intervention in that territory.

U.S. TV Broadcast Reception To Be Prevented

FL3008012489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2357 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Report by Maria Elena Alonso on "Caribe-Intercosmos" segment of "Exclusivo" program, hosted by Daniel Torres]

[Text] [Torres] Tonight's topic is the worm ["gusano," a name given to former Cuban citizens] television station. Good evening.

[Alonso] Good evening, Daniel. A U.S. newscast picked up by our satellite began a number of reports on the U.S. Government's plan to air television broadcasts against our country. It is worth noting that the goal of the Bush administration and of small counterrevolutionary groups of Cuban origin living in the United States is to intensify the harassment and the [word indistinct] policy maintained by the past nine U.S. administrations against our country.

It is also important to recall that Cuba has reiterated on several occasions that these U.S. attacks not only violate our sovereignty; they violate international radio broadcasting agreements signed by the United States and Cuba. In reference to this aspect, we will listen to a representative from the National Association of Broadcasters of the United States.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in Spanish] The United States signed international agreements indicating that domestic radio and television bands will not be used to broadcast international propaganda to other countries. [end recording]

The U.S. television report that was picked up by our satellite also carried an interview with the representative from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, Jose Arbesu. Let us listen.

[Begin Arbesu recording] By doing this, the United States is violating an agreement, the International Telecommunications Union Agreement, which was signed by the United States and Cuba.

This is a political event; it is a political act. This is a political attack and, I repeat, it begins by violating our sovereignty, which is something no one can do. We consider it to be an attack and we will do everything possible to try and persuade the U.S. Administration not to proceed with this plan. However, if we are not successful; if this television station is created and it begins these transmissions, we will try to prevent it from reaching our country. We will try to prevent it from being received in our country. An adequate response will be made. [end recording]

Minister Provides Details on Abrantes Trial

FL2908150089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1006 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] During a special Cuban television program, a detailed judicial explanation was given of 1989 Case No 2 regarding the charges filed against Division General Jose Abrantes Fernandez and six others. The defendants are now awaiting sentencing.

For approximately 1 and ½ hours, Minister of Justice Juan Escalona Reguera, Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, and Supreme People's Tribunal President Raul Amaro Salup answered questions from a panel of journalists and provided details of the trial.

Answering questions from Felix Pita Astudillo from GRANMA, Escalona explained that Case No 2 was different from Case No 1—in which several people involved in drug trafficking were sentenced to capital punishment—and he emphasized that Case No 2 is not a continuation of the previous case.

Escalona Reguera revealed that, hours before the execution, the accused who were sentenced to the death penalty were interrogated and that all of them denied that the Ministry of the Interior [MININT] leadership knew of their activities. There had been suspicion that the ministry may have known about these activities. The justice minister provided details on how Abrantes concealed information that Tony la Guardia was involved in drug trafficking. Escalona also affirmed that, if on 25 February, when Abrantes received that information, he had taken it to the revolution's leadership and an investigation had been started, he would have avoided things which occurred later. Escalona said that Abrantes had substituted principles for cronyism, because he also had information on the improper conduct of Diocles Torralba, information he did not release for 4 months. However, Escalona added, Abrantes' concealment of the information was not assessed as conscious involvement in drug trafficking, because a relationship proving that could not be established.

The justice minister pointed out that it is just and reasonable for our people to ask for more rigorous sanctions but, he said, we are a civilized nation that is governed by laws. Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz said that even if an attorney general thinks like the people, his petition must be based on proven facts and law. Since Abrantes' involvement in drug trafficking was not proven, he could not be charged with the crimes for which the defendants in Case No 1 were sanctioned.

During another segment of the television program, Supreme People's Tribunal President Raul Amaro Salup, answering another question, explained that the 30-year prison term for a crime that is being sanctioned is used only as an alternative to the death sentence, which is not the case this time.

Program Allays Concerns

FL3008023689 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Last night, our people focused their attention on the special program on Case No 2 of 1989. Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera, Supreme People's Tribunal President Raul Amaro Salup, and Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa appeared on the program. Reporters from our newsroom interviewed the population on the topics discussed on this program.

[Begin recording] [First speaker] I think that it was very important to have this program because when you first hear the news you don't know any details. You don't know why this happened, why that happened.

[Second speaker] They have fulfilled their purpose. I think that the concerns of the people have been addressed.

[Third speaker] An extensive analysis was conducted. It was a very correct analysis on the part of the comrades who spoke from the Attorney General's Office, etcetera. I think that they eliminated, with no difficulty, all the doubts of the people.

[Fourth speaker] I saw the program. There was much concern. I also said to a comrade that in comparison to

the other case, this sanction was much less severe. I later came to the conclusion, based on the explanation given by on television last night, that stiffer sentences cannot be imposed because one must follow what is established by law, even though one may feel that a lot of damage has been done and that they deserve a different type of sanction.

[Fifth speaker] In Case No 1, as well as in Case No 2, the people and the rest of us are aware that these two cases were conducted fairly.

[Sixth speaker] I think it was very opportune, very important to clarify Case No 2 in detail. [end recording]

Havana Notes UN Meeting on Chemical Weapons

FL2908220989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1938 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] (Pierre Morel), chairman of the Special Committee for Chemical Weapons of the UN Disarmament Conference, has said in Geneva that although no spectacular progress has been made in this area, substantial progress has been made on several technical aspects. (Morel) stressed that one of the areas where substantial progress has been made is in the verification process where criteria exists for inspection by [word indistinct] and on confidentiality.

Eleven countries announced that they had conducted national experimental inspections to define the nature of the enterprises that work in the chemical sector. In the legal sphere, a final clause has been drafted on sanctions and [word indistinct].

At the institutional level, the future convention will work on a tripartite basis with a president, executive secretary, and a technician. A commission of independent experts in the field of chemicals will also be included.

Malmierca Suggests Topics for Nonaligned Summit

FL2908211189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1942 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today said in Belgrade that the ninth conference of the Nonaligned Movement should thoroughly examine situations, such as the ones in Panama and Central America.

Malmierca, who has been in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, since last night, held a round of talks with the federal secretary for foreign affairs, Budimir Loncar.

The Cuban foreign minister added that the colonial status of Puerto Rico should also be included in the draft of the final declaration that will be issued at the important meeting.

Malmierca said that the Cuban delegation will stress at the summit the need for the nonaligned countries to assess the problem of drug trafficking, beginning with the incentive created by the U.S. drug market. The Cuban minister added that it is not fair that the problem should be solved at the expense of Latin American and Caribbean countries without considering such aspects as the distribution and consumption of drugs.

Focusing on global relations, Malmierca said that the nonaligned countries should strive for the consolidation of detente but he added that peace must apply to both small and large countries, independent of each nation's economic situation.

Malmierca said that the summit's documents and resolutions should not be repetitive or lengthy but he warned of the danger of omitting matters of vital interest for the sake of brevity. The Cuban foreign minister also stressed the importance that all the documents adopted by the summit of the heads of states should be of equal value and receive the same guarantees.

Malmierca requested that the current situations in southern Africa and the Middle East also be considered and he emphasized the importance of the nonaligned countries' contribution to the fulfillment of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence.

Workers Movement Goal 'Construction of Socialism'

FL3008020789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Interview with Pedro Ross Leal, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the committee organizing the 16th congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC, by unidentified journalists on 29 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Journalist] What will the general direction of the CTC be in the future?

[Ross Leal] The fundamental direction of the CTC, the workers movement, the fundamental, strategic, most important task is the construction of socialism. Why? Because solving problems and getting things we want for our people are both linked to the construction of socialism. That is our most important, strategic task and that is why there is an emphasis on improving production, efficiency, effectiveness. The way we produce and our efficiency in production will allow us to advance in the economic sphere.

Emphasis is also being placed on increasing the ideological and political level of the workers because the trade union in socialism is an organization that educates workers in the new form of coexistence, in the new form of conduct at work and in society. That is also a function of the socialist trade union, the trade union that fights for socialism.

Committee Approves Slogan

FL2908232289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2303 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Report by Daniel Torres on "Exclusivo" Program]

[Text] The committee organizing the 16th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC, today approved the slogan—or main theme—that will prevail over all activities related to that important workers' meeting, which will be held from 24 to 28 January. The slogan is: 16th CTC Congress—Dedicated to Work for the Construction of Socialism!

This slogan, friends, will immediately be made known to all workers and to the nation's work centers.

I repeat the slogan: 16th CTC Congress—Dedicated to Work for the Construction of Socialism!

The organizing committee will soon announce additional slogans for this congress, independent of those approved by each trade union in accordance with certain characteristics and production goals.

Pedro Ross Leal, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the committee organizing the 16th CTC Congress, presided over the meeting, which was attended by all the secretaries general of national trade unions and where, I repeat, this slogan was approved.

* Production in Food Industry Viewed at Mid-Year

32480196b Havana GRANMA in Spanish 22 Jul 89 p 2

[Article by Diana Sosa]

[Text] During the second half of the year, workers in various enterprises in the Ministry of Food Industry (MINAL) will have to make a major effort to meet their annual plans. This is because of backlogs that have built up, largely as a result of the insufficient supply of agricultural commodities.

From January to July, the MINAL attained growth in 16 categories compared to the same period of last year. Thirty-one enterprises, however, fulfilled their commitments by only 95 percent, although in the second quarter several of them attained high production figures that enabled them to reduce the backlogs they had had since the first of the year.

One of the areas of most difficulty was that of fruit preserves, with production falling 2,100 tons short of the plan. In addition to the shortage of citrus and noncitrus fruits, fresh tomato deliveries, which amounted to 26,000 tons, also had an impact. The agriculture sector plans to take steps to guarantee several dozen tons of fruit deliveries in the fourth quarter in order to prevent alterations in the distribution of preserves to the population next January and February.

A period of intensive labor awaits the citrus-growing complexes, first with the harvest of grapefruit, during which 80,000 tons of the fruit must be crushed. Much of grapefruit production is earmarked for export. Oranges will pose a similar problem in the final quarter. The compote factories will step up production this quarter so that they can conclude September with no shortfalls.

The Dairy Union was the only sector in the Ministry that met its plan in terms of value during the first half of the year. From April to June, it caught up with its plans for yogurt and salted butter production, and was ahead of the plans for liquid milk, ice cream, and different types of cheese. There are backlogs in canned milk and cream cheese, which are expected to be eliminated this quarter.

As for deliveries of pork to the meat industry, they fell 3,000 tons short of the plan, although the beginning of regular deliveries in that sector in June boosted production considerably and made it possible to close the 6-month period with the overall canned meat plan fulfilled.

Other industries that do not depend on the supply of agricultural commodities should also see their results rise in the coming months, so that they will be able to meet their annual plans. This is the case of the nation's grain complexes. In June, the wheat flour sector was 21,000 tons short of the mark, primarily due to the low quality and irregular deliveries of imported grain.

A special effort in the organization of production will be necessary at these centers. If the grain producers are able to fulfill the plan for the second half of the year and also make up for the 5,000-ton cumulative shortfall, they will achieve the second-highest wheat flour production level, surpassed only by that of 1987.

Soft drink producers, on the other hand, finished out the 6-month period with 97 percent of their plan fulfilled nationally. This industry has gradually recovered after a year of low results caused by the lack of bottle caps. The workers have already stabilized production, and in the last quarter the monthly average was 4.7 million boxes. At this rate, they will eliminate their backlogs by the end of the year.

The beer production plan was 92 percent fulfilled by the end of the 6-month period; this figure was 2 percent higher than during the same period last year. The three breweries in the capital underwent a repair program that included the installation of some new equipment, and that effort should begin producing results.

As for the production of rum for domestic consumption, there were problems with the supply of alcohols. By June, the liquor producers had made 200,000 liters more than the plan called for in that month, and they are willing to put out an average of 3.8 million liters a month during the third quarter so that they can finish September 1 million liters above the plan.

Vegetable oil refineries are also facing some intensive work days ahead. The June results were higher than the averages of the previous 5 months, but they will have to rise even higher for the rest of the year if the annual commitment is to be met.

* Construction Minister Discusses Sector Problems

32480195 Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish
23 Jun 89 pp 21-27

[Interview with Construction Minister Homero Crabb Valdes by Gloria Marsan Sanchez; date, place not given]

[Text] [BOHEMIA] Recently some positive results have been seen in the work of the Ministry. What do you think are the principal achievements, and what deficiencies still remain in your work?

[Crabb Valdes] The main achievement, in our opinion, is that there is full awareness throughout the Ministry that projects begun must be completed as soon as possible, with the highest quality possible. Moreover, people are acting accordingly.

The deficiencies that plague our efforts are linked, on the one hand, to organization and control problems that we must still overcome and are working on in the Ministry; and on the other hand, to the shortage of supplies, both foreign and domestic. Some of our efficiency indicators, such as the increase in productivity or efficiency in the use of equipment, are very closely tied to achieving steady and timely deliveries of supplies to the job sites. This is a complex and difficult task, considering the country's limitations, especially the shortage of hard currencies. In this regard, the 1989 plan calls for work on more than 2,000 objectives and the completion of about 15,000 housing units.

The organization of construction forces into brigades and the higher form, contingents, whose working style is characterized by total dedication to daily work, has also contributed significantly to the results.

We cannot ignore the improvement in water resource management, a task which has nearly tripled the performance levels of previous years. Then there is the comprehensive effort to fulfill the development program of the Construction Materials Industry, which is essential to the construction drive that is being carried out in the capital as well as the rest of the country.

The timely and precise directives, guidelines, and criticisms that the commander in chief has provided have contributed decisively to the process of rectifying errors and negative tendencies in the construction industry.

Construction Revolution

The country now has 60 construction contingents of the new type, comprising 25,000 workers. Of these contingents, 48 correspond to the Ministry, with 18,500 comrades who are carrying out projects of great importance in various programs.

This idea, conceived by the commander in chief and implemented initially by the Blas Roca Calderio Contingent, has today become a veritable revolution in construction. Without a doubt, this innovation, the resurgence of the minibrigades, and the restoration of the construction brigades represent milestones in the process of rectifying errors and negative tendencies in construction.

Since no two construction projects are alike, the leadership structure of the contingents does not respond to a preconceived plan, but to the real organizational needs of the work. For this purpose, bureaucratic specialization has been eliminated, and thus the managerial, technical, and support personnel all are prepared to carry out any task, and the workers practice as many trades as they can, making it possible to keep the indirect personnel level below 9 percent. If a job can be done by one worker, two cannot be spared. This is the secret of the high utilization of the work day and the elimination of stoppages.

One of the most outstanding results of the contingents is the high quality of the work they produce, despite the rapid pace at which they complete their jobs. The savings in materials and the low costs of production are also noteworthy.

As has been pointed out, paying attention to the individual man is the key in the construction of socialism. That is the reason for making sure the workers are given attention in every way, especially in the contingents where the work days are intensive, lasting 12 to 14 hours a day.

The contingents also require far-reaching and comprehensive political and ideological work on the part of the organizations. Socialist emulation is practiced on all work fronts, and the best workers in these vanguard collectives are given both moral and material incentives. All of this means that a new $100,000 bulldozer does the work of three such machines in the hands of the contingents.

New Variations

[BOHEMIA] Today we see buildings constructed by minibrigades in Havana that have broken with the tradition of the so-called "boxes." Is it possible to apply the experience of atypical projects throughout the country?

[Crabb Valdes] Although the atypical building should exist in adequate numbers, the problem is not just one of erecting the same kinds of buildings on a massive scale, but of applying new concepts in the design of buildings that will yield great flexibility of design and a better aesthetic in terms of architecture and urban development.

The modernization of existing construction systems is under study, and new variations are being introduced gradually, replacing the "typical buildings" with "typical combinable modules." This innovation, along with efforts in the provinces to strengthen activities in the

area of design, will make it possible to decentralize projects and thereby make them more flexible.

[BOHEMIA] Does this mean that projects will be designed at the provincial level?

[Crabb Valdes] Not entirely. The required technical-structural documentation will be developed centrally, and the plans will be completed in the provinces, in accordance with local aesthetic and urban development needs. This will eliminate the single building type, and will allow for a great variety of designs.

The atypical plan fosters great freedom of lines, but in general it is executed by the traditional system, which requires a lot of skilled labor and a greater technical design staff.

[BOHEMIA] So we won't have any more boxes?

[Crabb Valdes] No, although the problem lies in the fact that over the years there has been an indiscriminate repetition of plans, with no architectural flexibility. An extreme case is that of the Great Panel IV (GP-IV), which remained the same for 20 years. In this regard, criticism of us was justified. Now we are working hard on this, and some results have already appeared and are in the process of being applied, such as the new construction systems SP-86, GP-8, and GP-85. There are also existing systems that have been modernized, which will make a drastic change in what has been done until now.

Dead Spaces

[BOHEMIA] Why the excess dead space in the hallways of residential buildings, etc., to the detriment of the roominess they require?

[Crabb Valdes] On some projects, this ratio has really been above logical limits, according to the standards established for housing units; and this factor has not been examined carefully enough when the plans are approved. But other factors have an influence as well, such as the technical parameters of the construction systems and their rigidity, especially because of the almost total absence of light paneling.

[BOHEMIA] Are studies being conducted to make these projects more [word illegible] to better satisfy the needs of the future residents?

[Crabb Valdes] A new set of housing regulations is being implemented now that is more in keeping with current needs and requirements.

[BOHEMIA] And what about existing projects and those that are under construction?

[Crabb Valdes] They have been reviewed, and a group of them have been changed. This, along with newly drafted plans, will make it possible to replace the plans that are most deficient in terms of their functional and architectural solutions.

Studies of household furniture and appliances are also under way, with the participation of several state agencies and entities. As a result, the population's needs should be met more effectively.

[BOHEMIA] What is causing the delay in the completion of high-rise buildings?

[Crabb Valdes] In fact, the construction of high-rises, given their magnitude in terms of the number of residential units, requires a very rigorous organization and technical-material supply system. A lot of resources, materials, and equipment are involved.

[BOHEMIA] And these difficulties don't make it advisable to construct buildings with fewer floors?

[Crabb Valdes] The construction of an adequate number of high-rise buildings is a necessity of urban development in certain areas of the capital and other major cities. For this reason, we cannot eliminate their construction. Although initially we have diminished their proportion within the construction plan, we must be careful, because in the future we may need excessively high levels to make up for the deficit.

Moreover, we have the industrial capacity in prefabrication plants and equipment factories for the construction of high-rises, and we must use this capacity to the utmost, along with other existing capacities. In addition, there are examples of satisfactory execution, such as those in Camaguey. There, buildings of 18 and 26 stories, with different construction systems, are scheduled to be completed within 18 months at the most.

[BOHEMIA] So will we continue with high-rises and their problems?

[Crabb Valdes] Not exactly, because the new plans that have been drafted or are on the drawing boards are smaller in terms of the number of units. They are slated for completion in shorter periods of time. There are studies to pursue a preferred height of 8 to 12 stories, maintaining the idea of building only punctually.

Objective and Subjective

[BOHEMIA] Changing the subject, why were the plans for 1988 not fulfilled?

[Crabb Valdes] A key factor was the shortage of supplies, both imported and domestic. There are also subjective factors that translate, for example, into a low utilization of the work day. We are working systematically on those problems, but they are not yet totally resolved.

[BOHEMIA] What is preventing us from making more precise plans?

[Crabb Valdes] It would be ideal to make more precise plans, but the important thing at this time is to adopt practical measures aimed at overcoming the limitation of resources that we face. Hence the priorities that have

been established: accelerated development of investments for the production of construction materials, promotion of tourism projects, programs for feeding the people (pork, beef, poultry), water works, housing....

[BOHEMIA] But what about planning?

[Crabb Valdes] We must be more precise in our planning, but there are urgent needs that have to be taken into consideration. This means that we must work intensively at all levels of our agency to attain higher objectives every time, especially in terms of the projects and capacities that result.

[BOHEMIA] How is the construction cost of a completed project calculated? Do the indices used to set up the project give a true indication?

[Crabb Valdes] As for costs, the important thing is to act on them daily during the execution of the project, by measuring what has been produced physically, what materials have been used, how much time work has taken, etc. In other words, taking preventive action on costs, which is the only way to prevent undesirable deviations. This is a fundamental management tool.

Regulations govern the recording and analysis of costs on construction sites and in the brigades, contingents, and enterprises, taking into consideration an exchange of experiences between the grassroots entities and those of the Blas Roca Calderio Contingent. By the end of this 6-month period, this regulation process is supposed to be updated by applying it to engineering as well as architecture and industry.

Work is also being done to implement the Rotation Resources Control subsystem in the State Finance Committee. This subsystem is essential for monitoring the use of material resources more closely. An important factor in achieving a more accurate indication of costs is making sure projects have budgets that are properly drawn up by investors and project design personnel, as it is through these budgets that the cost of each project can be determined.

Quality, Culture, and Discipline

[BOHEMIA] What specific measures is the Construction Ministry taking to guarantee the quality of construction projects?

[Crabb Valdes] Quality is the result of direct action in an entire process in which many elements come into play, not only during the execution of the project—which is the final stage—but long before then. From the moment the investment is conceived, plans are drawn up and the allocation of resources is specified.

The right and wrong decisions made throughout the process come to light when the project is executed. The technical-organizational structures exist to guarantee quality at all levels of management, and technical-regulatory documents exist and should be applied at each level.

[BOHEMIA] Are they applied?

[Crabb Valdes] The resulting quality is not only a problem of structures and documents. Something fundamental is required: culture and technological discipline throughout the process, but above all during the execution of the project.

There is a concept that applies in any system, and it is that quality is the responsibility and the product of the person who directly does a job. This means that at the ground level it is our technicians, operators, and quality control organizations that have the most influence on the results.

[BOHEMIA] But that control doesn't always exist.

[Crabb Valdes] Of course, there is the case of the waterproofing that was done with the best of materials and met all the technical standards. But at the end of the project, neglect and laxness on the part of those who should have overseen the quality undermined that effort. That building will have leaks, or in the best of cases, repairs will have to be made before it is opened.

[BOHEMIA] What measures are taken in response to these breaches?

[Crabb Valdes] There are procedures and laws on the books to punish any violation of technological discipline in accordance with the seriousness of the act, but that is not enough. As we saw in the preceding example, the assistant did not do his duty, but he had a foreman, and the foreman in turn had a supervisor, who should have prevented this from happening. So it is not a question of creating a repressive mentality, with an inspector behind every worker, just a system in which self-monitoring is a constant.

[BOHEMIA] But the violations persist.

[Crabb Valdes] You are right, but don't forget that we have had an explosive increase in construction, and thousands of new workers have been brought in. They may have good intentions but they are unfamiliar with the work. This means that the production management and control system must be more effective and rigorous. We have not achieved this everywhere, and therefore many quality problems have arisen.

To be sure, in addition to this aspect of poor quality there are others, such as the low quality of some materials. To overcome this problem, we need to develop the production of materials and to replace some imports with domestic products. We have not always been able to achieve this goal at the same rate as the construction plan has required it.

Not Just Paternalism

[BOHEMIA] Do you share the opinion that excessive paternalism [management leniency towards workers] has been an obstacle to good quality construction?

[Crabb Valdes] I don't think it is just a matter of paternalism. Actually, one of the factors that undermines quality the most is the lack of technical stringency and marathon production schedules. In addition, there is the pretext of fulfilling a hidden goal, and sometimes a lack of organizational capacity among some of our builders.

Examples of projects that were completed on time and with good quality are Miguel Enriquez Hospital and the Las Tunas rolling mill. They did not achieve their goals by leaps and bounds, but by following the schedule from the beginning. And these are not isolated examples. There are many contingents and brigades that finish their jobs on schedule and manage to increase quality levels.

Another organizational problem that has not been resolved yet and that undermines quality is the lack of stability in the labor force. The contingent style, the multitrade approach, the proper attention to the individual, and training are key points in attaining this objective.

[BOHEMIA] Going into more detail on the issue of quality, many people complain about deficiencies in waterproofing roofs. Apparently there are problems of this sort all over the country. What can you tell us about that? What is being done to resolve it?

[Crabb Valdes] With regard to waterproofing, damage takes place as a result of deficiencies in the plans, poor workmanship, and difficulties with the quality of materials. The principal problems result from deficient technical solutions, low-quality materials, and a lack of stringency when the work is actually being done.

Technical-regulatory documents have been drawn up, training lectures and seminars have been held to ensure that designers and builders have a full grasp of waterproofing technology, and the Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, for its part, has made investments to boost production and supplies.

[BOHEMIA] You have touched on a sore point. If the plan is a guarantee of quality and savings, why are projects begun before the plans are complete?

[Crabb Valdes] Both increasing savings and achieving the greatest quality in construction are part and parcel of the necessary technical-economic efficiency of construction, and we can only accomplish them by first undertaking a profound, critical, technical, and economic analysis of the project with the participation of the investor, the builder, the supplier, and the designer.

Furthermore, we cannot forget that in the today's world there is an ever greater international influence on the economic sphere, and it is necessary to adapt to changing situations and conditions. It was for this reason that in the Second Meeting of the Projects Front, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro explained the need to combine the advantages of socialism and capitalism: from the first the possibility of planning development, and from the second the quick response to every problem that arises.

[BOHEMIA] But are we putting it into effect like that?

[Crabb Valdes] Not as quickly as we'd like. We are trying to prepare designers, builders, investors, suppliers—in short, all human factors, including workers and managers, to think in those terms, structurally as well as technically and economically so that they can meet these needs. Therefore, it is not possible to begin with a rigid plan, without the ability to change.

On the other hand, it is necessary to take immediate steps to enhance our food production capacities. The construction of the pig facilities should be completed in 18 months at the most. Therefore, we must make optimum use of the time available, and for this reason we are making it standard practice to draw up plans on site. We believe that this will not interfere with efficient, quality work. But in answer to your previous question, in every instance possible we must strive to begin construction with all of the planning documentation complete.

[BOHEMIA] Along other lines, do you think the Ministry can make up for the delays in construction projects so far this year?

[Crabb Valdes] At such an early date, it is always difficult to give up on fulfilling the plan, especially when such a great effort is being made at the grassroots level, motivated among other things by the need to report on our progress to the National People's Government Assembly this year.

Nevertheless, it is true that there are objective limitations on our ability to obtain various resources in a timely manner, especially those that are essential for completing the projects. In this connection, we believe it will not always be possible to make up for lost time, although we will strive to avoid or reduce delays on priority projects.

[BOHEMIA] How, exactly, is the Ministry preparing to report to the National People's Government Assembly?

[Crabb Valdes] This will be an occasion for explaining to what extent the Ministry and all of the enterprises in its system have been capable of providing real and effective answers to the points of criticism that were raised in the process of rectifying errors and negative tendencies. This will allow us to analyze the progress we have made, examine what has not been properly channeled, and more importantly, hear the opinions in this regard expressed by the deputies and, in particular, by the commander in chief.

[Box, p 22] A Life in Synthesis

It is 1958, a difficult year for young Cubans. At the Vibora Institute, a slender youth is a student leader and member of the Militias of Action and Sabotage of the 26 July Movement. The year 1959 dawns victoriously, and

he is in his last year of "bachillerato" studies when he is asked to join the course for National Institute for Agrarian Reform (INRA) managers.

When Commander Che Guevara creates the Ministry of Industries, the young man becomes vice minister of industrial construction, and never again will he leave the world of construction projects. His voice is pleasant and calm. He talks to us about the construction of the cement plant and the fertilizer factory in Nuevitas. Then comes the sugar investment plan that culminates in the Cristino Naranjo sugar mill in Holguin.

When the construction brigades are formed, he asks permission to join one, and the projects in Villa Clara and Cienfuegos begin to take shape: more than 70 storage centers, the fishing port, the Karl Marx cement plant-....Later on, at the head of the industrial projects is the Arriete rock crushing plant, wheat mills, torula plant, and the sprinkler irrigation equipment plant. With the political-administrative division, he becomes the chief of construction in Cienfuegos, and is put in charge of all hospital, day care center, school, and housing construction....

He serves two terms as a deputy to the National Assembly and is a delegate to Party congresses. At the Third Congress he is elected to the Central Committee. Last year he was named first vice minister of the Construction Ministry, and later minister of this important economic sector.

He has three children and a grandson.

Grenada

Further Action Considered by Opposition

FL2908164589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Opposition politicians are discussing what to do next to force the government out of office. This follows last week's decision by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize to suspend Parliament in order to nullify an opposition attempt at passing a motion of no-confidence. A no-confidence motion would have required Mr Blaize to resign as prime minister within 3 days or to advise dissolution of Parliament and name a date for general elections.

Some opposition parliamentarians are considering an informal meeting in which they pass the resolution of no-confidence in the government as a token gesture. They would then forward it to the governor general for his information.

Haiti

PDCH Press Release on CEP, Caricom, Avril

FL2808170589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Today, the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] gives its opinion on the [Permanent/Provisional] Electoral Council [CEP], the Caribbean Common Market [Caricom], and General Avril, after writing the Army authorities asking them to meet with General Avril to make him understand the need to rescind the Habitation Dauphin contract. The PDCH lumps them all together in the same bag. In the press release it calls them, "the Avril/CEP/Caricom triumvirate."

The PDCH authorities declare that at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel, they warned the Caricom delegation against deciding to give Haiti any kind of technical aid. This could serve to strengthen the plot that has been mounted for the past 5 months against the Haitian people, under the banner of the CEP.

The party finds that the behavior of the Caricom delegation constitutes tactless and unacceptable meddling in Haitian internal affairs.

The PDCH makes several suggestions in light of the uncertainty and distrust that exists between the Haitian people and the military government, which seems to be playing any and all games to remain in power.

The PDCH says that since it looks as if the government is trying to do everything it can to remain in power, everyone who wants democracy and rule of law to be established in Haiti must exert collective or individual kinds of pressure against the government, in order to make it respect the basic dispositions of the Constitution. The Constitution gives the people the right to vote directly for a president.

People should also demand that if the government and the CEP, are really going to hold elections, they should hold the presidential and legislative elections at the same time. This would prevent a legislature from unrightfully changing the Constitution in order to allow General Prosper Avril to put a person of his choice into office.

The PDCH says, further, that people must force the members of the Provisional Electoral Council—for Article 13 of the decree of 13 February 1989 provides for the existence of this council as a provisional electoral council—to carry out their mission within the framework of Article 289, which was reinstated on 13 March 1989. [passage omitted]

The PDCH says that people who want changes in Haiti must make the military government take a responsible position on the situation of generalized insecurity in Haiti. The government keeps talking about elections, but elections will remain just a dream as long as security has not been established in Haiti.

PUCH Predicts Upheaval From IMF Measures

FL2908164889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] predicts that Haiti is on the verge of a social explosion because of the way the economic situation is evolving.

At a news conference this morning, the Communist officials denounced the present negotations between Prosper Avril's government and the IMF, International Monetary Fund, to apply (?to the economy) a structural adjustment. The measure could lead to a serious social crisis in Haiti.

Max Bourjolly, PUCH number two man, highlighted the social upheaval that occurred in certain Latin American countries when the IMF's structural adjustment was applied.

According to Bourjolly, one of the negative consequences of applying the measure would be the government forgetting about any and all national development and social policies. It would mean absolute austerity and an aggravation of existing poverty.

Bourjolly also pointed out the contradictory action being taken by the Avril government. For example, Social Affairs Minister Arnault Guerrier is demanding an improvement in social policies but, says the PUCH, Prosper Avril and Finance Minister Leonce Thelusma are in favor of economic austerity.

[Begin Bourjolly recording, in Creole] One condition set by the IMF is that all social policies be stopped. [passage omitted]

The IMF says that if you want the measures to help, you must reduce all social expenditures, because they are not productive.

What does reducing social expenditures mean? It means blocking salaries with no wage increases. What else? There are too many civil servants, so some must be fired. This is what the IMF asks.

We wonder if what is happening at the government printing office doesn't have something to do with the beginning of these negotiations being held with the IMF. [passage omitted]

There is an internal contradiction in this. There will be less pressure (?to import) when you reduce the internal demand. [passage omitted] However, you then create more poverty inside the country because of unemployment. There will be more people trying to take boats to Miami. More people will become criminals. [passage omitted] At this point, primary instincts will develop because everyone wants to survive. Thus, this policy is going to increase insecurity. [end recording]

One of the IMF premises for applying its measures is that Haiti lives beyond its means. This is completely absurd in a country where 80 percent of the population lives on the threshold of poverty, says Bourjolly. In order to solve this problem, (?a cleanup) of the nation's institutions would have to be undertaken, beginning with government institutions. The big merchants and industrialists would have to be forced to fulfill their obligations to the DGI, General Directorate of Taxes.

The application of the IMF measures would also be a threat to democracy in Haiti. The masses would be the principal victims of such a situation. They would not be able to demand their rights. Thus, there would be a (?strong-man) government in place.

[Begin Bourjolly recording, in Creole] The IMF demands liberalism in exchanges, in commerce, and in industry. This is going to be accompanied by an authoritarian, repressive government. When they have to shut down businesses and block salaries, there will be even greater unemployment. The masses are going to revolt. Then, since a (?half-way policy) like that can't bring about a stabilization there is going to be pressure against the already depreciated gourde, which is at 34 percent on the parallel market. The government is going to make it official. This means that there is going to be a devaluation of the gourde. This devaluation is currently being prepared.

This too is why we felt this news conference was necessary. (?We had to denounce) all this!

We are going to have an enormous inflation rate when the gourde is devalued. We have seen what has happened to economies throughout Latin America when the IMF applies this (?super-potent) remedy. We have seen popular uprisings, the Army's repressions, and hundreds of dead bodies everywhere this horse-strength remedy is applied! We must spare Haiti such a misfortune! [end recording]

The PUCH confirmed its position on elections. Elections are currently not possible in Haiti. Bourjolly says that the problem of the government must be resolved first. He says a national coalition government must be formed to govern the democratic transition in Haiti.

The PUCH called on all sectors of the national life to reflect on this particularly difficult juncture in Haiti and especially, to prevent the government signing with the IMF this (?agreement to apply) the structural adjustment.

MOP Official Discusses Party Congress Themes

FL2808173189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1045 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP] second congress opens 25 August. The congress' themes will be: Truth, Unity, Opening, and Mobilization.

We interviewed Dr Jean Joseph Moliere, a member of the MOP's central political bureau, who discussed with us the meaning of the themes the MOP is going to develop at this congress.

[Begin Moliere recording] [passage omitted] There is only one MOP, not two or three.

Truth, means that we are going to inform the entire Haitian nation of all the MOP's activities since its return to the political scene after the 33 years of exile during the Duvalier government.

The truth is that there are a number of people out there who feel that they might fit in with the MOP. Why do they feel they could be MOP members? Social recognition of the nation's basic elements is one of the basic elements of the MOP's principles. [passage omitted]

Unity is next. There are a number of MOP members who have allowed themselves to be led astray by the well-orchestrated propaganda of national powers with money. When we say power, we do not mean government. We are talking about a power that is there, that is (?being generated) in Haiti.

I am talking about people who have let themselves be led astray by a whole series of offers and propaganda, which has led to them to ask if the MOP that Daniel Fignole left us is the same MOP that exists today. They see a number of people calling themselves MOP members without possessing the MOP's doctrinal line.

We say to these people that it is time they returned home.

We are not talking about certain people who know very well what they are doing by seeking to destroy the party because it is a party that (?is ready for a) complete, total change in what is happening in Haiti. [Words indistinct] speak of unity.

In regard to opening up, we do not think the MOP is the only political party, or we MOP members the only Haitian citizens capable of participating in [rephrases] promoting a change in Haiti. Hence, the opening up is (?to) all democratic forces in Haiti and to forces that really aspire to change—regardless of where that force is located. If the force in question truly wants change for Haiti, we must negotiate with it, so as to join efforts in order to move forward and turn this country into a little paradise.

We will talk about mobilization. We note that there is a conspiracy against the nation involving not only national but also international elements. Thus, just as we did on 22 August, 1771, when a conch shell was sounded calling on the people to rally, we are going to ask all Haitians—the Haitian masses, all Haitian citizens, all Haitian democrats—to mobilize with a view to effecting this change.

Divided Party To Run Own Candidates in Elections

FL280817458 9 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP] is asking for Haiti's different social classes to unite under the banner of love and social justice, said Mr Marc Guillaume, technical adviser in charge of political activity for the MOP headed by Mr (Feddeb) Guillaume, during an interview he granted to Radio Nationale. [passage omitted]

The congress of the other MOP, led by agronomist Gerard Philippe Auguste, starting today, will not be validated by (?Guillaume's) MOP and its sympathizers. [passage omitted]

They cannot recognize, in Auguste, a representative or the heir of Daniel Fignole.

Guillaume and Auguste do not get along. They both hope to go to the elections. Each one intends to run its own candidates.

Mr Auguste said that the law on political parties does not authorize two political parties to operate under the same acronym and use the same banner. Thus, there is still a question in regard to Auguste and Guillaume. The former has its headquarters in Delmas and the latter on Rue des Pucelles in Bel-Air. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Prison Warders Attacked, Illegal Weapons Sought

FL2808222189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1911 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 26, CANA—Prison warders at a district prison have stopped feeding inmates on death row to support calls for a thorough search of the premises for illegal weapons, the GLEANER reported on Saturday.

The warders at the St Catherine prison, 14 miles from here, say that their action arose of an incident Thursday afternoon in which two of their colleagues were stabbed by murder convicts using crude weapons. The warders had opened a cell to clear out waste when they were attacked. After the incident, knives, stones, bottle glass, and other improvised weapons were seized but the warders claim that there are still more on the compound.

The problem of prisoners making and obtaining weapons has been a problem for sometime and only recently, officials at the central penitentiary in Kingston stopped relatives taking meals to inmates because it is said that weapons were often hidden in these packages.

The warders say they are requesting police protection so that they can carry out a thorough search for weapons. They will also continue refusing to feed prisoners on death row until their demands were met.

The GLEANER quoted a spokesman for the Jamaica Union of Public Officers and Public Employees, which represents the warders, as saying that they supported the action.

The death row at St. Catherine district prison was built to accommodate 60 inmates but there were now more than 200 there. As a result, said the union official, most of them have had to be placed in cells with other prisoners. He said that these men are violent and have often attacked warders. The spokesman said that requests for tear gas, rubber bullets, and heavy water hoses among other items to ensure security in the prisons have so far been ignored, the GLEANER reported.

Montserrat

Legislature Member Brandt Resigns From Party

FL2808133589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1300 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Aug 28, CANA — Opposition member of the legislature David Brandt has resigned as a member of the National Development Party (NDP) complaining of smear tactics against him.

Brandt, a prominent local lawyer and a founder/member of the NDP, said he was not being invited to meetings of the party.

"For some time now there have been many indications both expressed and implied, that the party has been hostile to me personally as a member, and by way of my profession as a practicing lawyer" he said.

He said he had also been "reliably" informed that the NDP was secretly plotting to kick him out, and have him replaced as the party's candidate in the next general election.

Brandt told CANA that one issue "of special significance" in his decision to resign from the NDP, were repeated attacks against him by the opposition mouthpiece—the Montserrat REPORTER.

He noted that in a series of articles on ongoing investigations into the local offshore banking sector, the Montserrat REPORTER characterised offshore banking "as nothing ... Short of criminal."

Brandt who is known to have helped register and to represent several offshore banks here, indicated that he resented the NDP newspaper's alleged suggestion that the local offsore banking sector was a "murky underworld" and that he was the local "kingpin" of offshore banking.

Besides Brandt, the only other NDP legislator in Parliament here is the opposition leader - Bertrand Osborne.

Brandt who was also at one time a member of the ruling People's Liberation Movement (PLM) headed by chief minister John Osborne, is now expected to contest the next election as an independent.

The PLM has four seats in Parliament.

Trinidad and Tobago

New Public Prosecutions Director Appointed

FL2908180989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1334 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 29, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago has a new director of public prosecutions—former solicitor general and assistant DPP deputy public prosecutor, Lionel Jones.

Jones replaces Gladys Gafoor, who had been acting in the post for two years. Gafoor returns to her post as deputy solicitor general.

The new appointments, announced by Chief Justice Clinton Bernard, took effect from July 31.

The changes leave open the post of solicitor general in an increasingly depleted public service legal sector as a number of the country's lawyers continue to move into more lucrative private practice.

Former attorney general, Selwyn Richardson, had last year suggested the idea of asking local lawyers to give up some time from their private practice to work for the DPP and Solicitor General's offices.

Trinidad had had an acting DPP for the past five years.

Minister Solana Denies Interest in Common Market

PA2808220489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1755 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Puebla, Mexico, 27 Aug (AFP)—The integration of Mexico into a common market with Canada and the United States "even if it is partial, is not at all one of the goals of the Mexican Government or the Mexican society," Foreign Minister Fernando Solana said on Saturday in the City of Puebla.

"It is true that trade with our northern neighbor has increased in all sectors and that trade has multiplied in recent years. However, it is absurd to infer that Mexico has any interest in resigning its right to self-determination," he added.

During a meeting of the National Association of International Studies, Solana said that, with regard to the United States, "we have very different levels of development. We share borders, but we somehow mutually recognize the differences that exist between us."

The foreign minister reiterated that Mexico gives priority to the Latin American region, and that, although there is a desire to attain some progress in political concertation and economic integration, "we do not seek to play the leading role."

Concerning the Panamanian situation, Solana said: "The right of this sister nation to decide for itself how to solve its internal problems has been respected."

Official on Campaign Against Drug Trafficking

PA2608000789 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Javier Coello Trejo, assistant attorney for the struggle and investigation against illegal drugs in Mexico, talked about our country's ongoing campaign against illegal drugs during a satellite conference with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA. Coello Trejo said that the Mexican Government is prepared to counter any act of vengeance that may be carried out by the drug traffickers.

He added that, to date, the current administration has confiscated and destroyed 21 tons of cocaine; 2,802 hectares of poppy plants; 2,046 hectares of marijuana plants; and 479 kg of heroin. [passage omitted]

Finance Secretariat Reports to Congress on Debt

PA2708143889 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 16 Aug 89 pp 1, 35

[Report by Enloe St. James]

[Text] The Mexican Government paid three times more money in interest on its domestic debt than on its much publicized foreign debt during the second quarter of 1989, according to a Finance Secretariat (SHCP) report delivered to the Congress Monday.

Domestic debt service payments during the quarter amounted to 13.7 trillion pesos, the SHCP report stated, or 5.58 billion dollars—taking the June 30th 1989 end-of-quarter controlled currency exchange rate of 2,455 pesos to the dollar. In the same period, the government paid 1.8 billion dollars in interest on the public sector's foreign debt.

Counting amortizations for principal worth 1.4 billion dollars, total federal government foreign debt payments for the 90-day period amounted to 3.2 billion dollars, the report stated.

The SHCP report, covering the country's April-June 1989 public debt scene, was delivered to Congress jointly with a related Secretariat of Programming and Budget (SPP) report on the government's finances and the country's economic performance.

Mexico's domestic debt at the end of June 1989 totaled 126.3 trillion pesos, or 51.45 billion dollars. The figure equaled 27 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), the report stated. This marked a decrease from a domestic debt GDP-equivalent of 29 percent at the end of 1988, and 33 percent at the close of 1987.

Banco de Mexico (the country's central bank) holds 50.3 percent of the government's domestic debt, with government bonds accounting for 38 percent and the government-owned banking system owing 11.7 percent. During the April-June 1989 quarter, however, government bonds attracted 84.5 percent of the country's money market funds, with 14.5 percent for the central bank and 1 percent for the commercial banks.

On the positive side, the SPP report states other indicators of the government's performance. The first semester 1989 federal deficit decreased 60.4 percent in real terms from the first semester 1988 federal deficit, the SPP report stated.

Primary surplus from January to June of 1989 amounted to 27.1 trillion pesos, or 11.03 billion dollars, a 31.1 percent increase over the same period in 1988, the SPP report continued. Among reasons for the increase, the report cited a 5.6 percent real term increase during the 1989 first semester in budget-sector income, to a total of 67.9 trillion pesos, or 27.65 billion dollars. Also, primary government expenditures decreased in real terms 1.2 percent during the period, amounting to 43.8 trillion pesos, or 17.84 billion dollars.

The domestic debt is the amount of money the government owes investors through issuance of bonds aimed at collecting the country's liquid resources to fund federal projects—or deficits. In return, the government has to pay the bond upon maturity at face value plus interest. In Mexico, domestic interest rates were kept in the late eighties at yields exceeding 50 percent on most peso-denominated financial instruments. After Mexico signed a foreign debt accord three weeks ago with its international commercial creditor banks, domestic interest rates

fell to 34.6 peercent. Currently, interest rates for the bellwether instrument, 28-day Treasury bills (Cetes), stand at 35.57 percent.

Of 97.9 billion dollars owed by Mexico to foreign creditors, the accord covered the 52.7 billion held by the commercial banks. The federal government has by far the largest share of the total debt, with 76.821 billion dollars.

The SHCP report states 99.2 percent of the total funds owed by the government to foreign creditors "correspond to long-term liabilities and only 0.8 percent to revolving credit lines maturing in less than a year."

The SHCP public debt report projects a net transfer of funds out of Mexico due to foreign debt and debt service payments equal to 2.7 percent of GDP for 1989, down from an average of 6.5 percent of GDP during the past six years. The Finance Secretariat projects net fund trasnfer for the next few years as follows: 2.5 percent for 1990, 2.3 percent for 1991 and 1.9 percent for 1992.

Touching on a different subject, the SPP report also notes "an important channeling of newly generated money resources to the private sector," taking place during the second quarter, with an almost 10-trillion-peso (4.1-billion-dollar) financial flow from government-owned commercial banks to businesses and private investors. Officials said recently the new credits would be used for productive investments.

PEMEX Issues 6-Month Oil Export Figures

PA2908171289 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 23 Aug 89 p 35

[Text] Results for the first half of 1989 are in and Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) reports that Mexico exported 3.82 billion dollars worth of crude oil, petrochemicals and petroleum by-products during the first six months of 1989, according to a statement released Tuesday by the state-run oil monopoly.

The preliminary results of foreign oil sales during the first semester indicate that Mexico sold 1.302 million barrels of oil per day (bpd)—amounting to 3.626 billion dollars in sales—the statement said.

Pemex exported 778,500 bdp of Maya heavy crude, 374,000 bdp of Isthmus light crude, and 150,000 bdp of Olmeca extra-light crude oil. Pemex sells most of their crude oil in a cocktail consisting of 60 percent Maya and 40 percent Isthmus.

Pemex exported 70,505 barrels of petroleum products a day worth 155.5 million dollars.

Petroleum products exported included industrial fuel at an average of 28,853 bpd; liquid gas, 25,946 bpd; jet fuel, 10,000 bpd; penthane 4,200 bpd; and on a minor scale, asphalt.

Petrochemical export products during the first six months of 1989 averaged out to 791 metric tons a day, amounting to 39.43 million dollars in sales. Products sold included ammonia, ethylyne, mononethylglycenol, and polyethylinic wax, the statement said.

Three PRD Militants Murdered 26 Aug in Puebla

PA3008015089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0715 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Puebla (Mexico), 28 Aug (EFE)— Three militants of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) were murdered on 26 August in San Juan Calmeca, Puebla State, east of Mexico City, the police reported today.

The source said that the victims were leaving a meeting of the PRD—party led by former presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas—when they were shot point-blank by several unidentified persons.

The police pointed out that one of murdered persons was 65 and two were youths.

In the last 10 months, several political murders have taken place in this town, and therefore, the police "have not ruled out the possibility of vengeance."

Costa Rica

Panamanian Requests Asylum; Border on Alert

PA3008030689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0136 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] According to the authorities, a Panamanian identified as Eliecer Euclides Diaz Rios today crossed the Costa Rican-Panamanian border and asked for asylum claiming that he is a "victim of political persecution."

A Security Ministry spokesman told ACAN-EFE that no decision has been adopted on Diaz's case yet, but it is being considered whether he qualifies as a refugee or asylum beneficiary.

Diaz claims that he is in danger because he witnessed the "murder" of a Netherlands priest during the 7 May elections, which were annuled 3 days later. The murder has not been solved and the culprits have not been punished.

Other official sources said that the Directorate General for Refugees today began a study on an emergency plan applicable in the event displaced persons continue to arrive from Panama.

Costa Rica's experience with refugees since 1979 includes an inflow of thousands of Nicaraguans and a lesser number of Salvadorans, but never Panamanians.

In another development, Costa Rican Security Minister Hernan Garron said today that no guerrillas are being trained on Costa Rican soil to attack Panama, as the Panamanian authorities have asserted.

Today a Panama Defense Force captain presented to the press in David, near the Costa Rican border, five alleged members of the Panamanian opposition accused of being involved in a subversive movement being hatched in Costa Rica to overthrow the government of Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency.

Garron said he has been in contact with all border police chiefs throughout the day and none have reported anything abnormal.

Security Ministry spokesman Carlos Jimenez confirmed that there is complete normality "on this side" and no trace has been found of armed persons or camps.

This evening Garron ordered a special alert at all police posts and asked that an investigation be conducted on all reports from the Panamanian authorities.

El Salvador

FMLN Expresses Support for Panama 'Struggle'

PA3008011789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command "on the Panamanian situation," in El Salvador on 28 August]

[Text] Communique of the General Command to the Salvadoran people and the international community:

1. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] expresses solidarity with the Panamanian people's heroic and just struggle in defense of their sovereignty and for the Bush administration's fulfillment of the Torrijos - Carter treaty, through which the United States promised to turn over the canal to the Panamanian people in 1999. We condemn the aggression and the occupation by Yankee troops in Panama and we view the constant military provocations against the Panamanian people and their defense forces as irresponsible actions. They form part of the escalation of aggression by the United States in view of the failure of its economic blockade, the millions it gives in aid to the opposition, and the setback it suffered at the OAS. Therefore, it is making plans for a military option.

3. [number as heard] This militaristic attitude of the Bush administration, its position on the agreements signed by the five Central American presidents, and its decision to continue providing military aid to the fascist government of Alfredo Cristiani are in contrast with the negotiating spirit which prevails in the region. The Bush administration is a factor of provocation in the region and its militaristic stance intensifies and worsens conflicts.

4. We believe the OAS resolutions create a favorable climate so that the Panamanian people, in exercise of their sovereignty, independence, and self-determination, can solve their conflict without pressure, blackmail, and aggression. The resolutions strengthen the principles of democracy and self-determination of the people.

5. We acknowledge the example of patriotism and heroism that the Panamanian people have shown in the face of the aggression. We have no doubts that a military adventure by the Yankees will be no picnic. On the contrary, they will confront the brave resistance of the Panamanian people and their defense forces.

6. We alert our people and our combatants to be ready to give all the solidarity that is needed. We issue a call to all revolutionary and progressive movements to provide solidarity to the fraternal Panamanian people.

El Salvador, 28 August 1989.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

Army, Rebel Casualties Reported in Clashes

PA2508212589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1938 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Military and rebel sources have reported that clashes between soldiers and guerrillas in the past few hours have resulted in 27 casualties.

The Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] reported that nine guerrillas were killed in a confrontation with Army troops in a village near Metapan, Santa Ana Department, in the country's west.

Radio Venceremos, official voice of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], reported that the rebels inflicted 18 casualties on the Army in three ambushes.

According to the clandestine radio station, the ambushes took place on the San Salvador-Santa Ana Highway, Chalatenango Department, and in Los Masariegos, near San Jose Guayabal.

The Army reported that in the past few hours the FMLN continued its sabotage actions against the country's economic structure with explosive charges on power system towers and telephone junction boxes.

In addition, the Army admitted that a UH-1H helicopter was damaged by guerrillas at Cinquera, Cabanas Department, but that no casualties resulted.

According to the military report, the aircraft was hit by fire while supplying troops of Military Detachment 2 in the north of Cabanas Department.

FMLN Guerrillas Attack Bus, Kill Driver

PA2608024789 Paris AFP in Spanish 2247 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Aug (AFP)— A man was killed and a woman was seriously wounded today when Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] urban guerrillas attacked a bus in a poor neighborhood in southern San Salvador, official sources reported today.

The rebel attack took place at 1300 local time in Ivu neighborhood, when the bus was intercepted by three men who killed the driver, identified as 48-year-old Jose A. Abarca. The guerrillas then set off a bomb inside the bus. The blast seriously wounded Dolores Ramirez, a 52-year-old woman who was passing by.

The attack is part of a sabotage campaign against the public transportation system to protest the increase in transportation fares. The sabotage campaign has thus far resulted in 1 death, 3 injuries, and the destruction of over 40 buses.

Army sources reported that nine guerrillas were killed in Metapan jurisdiction, in the western Santa Ana Department. The Army also admitted that the rebels damaged a UH-H1 helicopter conducting supply operations in Cabanas Department, north of San Salvador.

Guatemala

President Cerezo Travels to Taiwan 26 Aug

PA2908141689 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] President Cerezo left the country on 26 August. His trip will take approximately 2 weeks and his first stop is the ROC. Before leaving, Cerezo stated that the government does not have a policy of repression.

[Begin Cerezo recording] It is not our policy to kidnap university students or GAM [Mutual Support Group] members as it is a fact that these students, GAM, or their demonstrations do not and will not harm Guatemalan society. These Guatemalan organizations have a right to hold demonstrations and there is no need to kidnap their members as their actions have never endangered the country's security. There could be a reason if they were linked to rebel or armed actions but this is not the case and, thus, there is no reason for the government to act in such a manner. We do not have them [changes thought] We do not kidnap leaders. They can, of course, go to court to get legal authorization to verify if their leaders are in detention centers or military garrisons. [end recording]

Cerezo gave a news conference at the airport and agreed that gun running from neighboring countries is going on:

[Begin Cerezo recording] As armed groups in neighboring countries start to be dismantled and violence decreases, weapons are left everywhere and are being sold. Weapons have come into the country and are used in terrorist actions and for defensive purposes—people buy weapons during periods of insecurity. Now we have a new weapon and ammunition control law that will allow citizens to obtain a weapon permit for defense purposes. We request that citizens who wish to abide by the law go through the legal procedures and obtain the corresponding weapon permit. To others, I say that we have information and that next week, the vice president—who will be the president during my absence—will announce several actions and operations that are to be implemented to control persons involved in illegal activities.

I want to say something else that is very important. There have been some comments that there will be a vacuum of power when I leave on this trip. This is totally false. The country's Constitution allows the temporary absence of the president and establishes the mechanisms which allows a substitutionfor him during this period. I totally trust the person who will take my place, he is a totally democratic citizen, and he, as the constitutional acting president, has the full support of the security forces. Thus, it is not true that there will be an absence of power. [end recording]

The leader was seen off at the La Aurora Airport. He was given full honors at a farewell ceremony where he inspected the troops, as is customary. Then Vice President Roberto Carpio, ministers, deputy ministers, and top officials in the Christian Democrat administration extended their official salute to the president. Judicial branch administration officials, congressmen, diplomats, and other personalities also went to the airport to see the president off. Cerezo was accompanied by Foreign Minister Mario Palencia, Specific Affairs Minister Sara Mishan, the presidential command staff, a brother, and two of his sons. Shortly after the plane left the airport, Acting Congress President Marco Antonio Bardoni Castillo swore in Acting President Roberto Carpio. Cerezo traveled in a Pan American Airways plane.

URNG Leader Sees Growth in Guerrilla Activities

PA3008024289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1803 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] San Jose, 29 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Commander Gaspar Ilom, who is one of the leaders of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), said today that the insurgency is increasing qualitatively and quantitatively in Guatemala, where the guerrillas are already operating in the capital.

In a document released by the URNG in San Jose, Costa Rica, Ilom pointed out that thus far this year the insurgents have carried out over 1,000 attacks in which they have inflicted "over 1,400 casualties on the Army," reflecting an increase in operations when compared to 570 attacks and 663 Army casualties in 1986.

The URNG admits no casualties of its own in these attacks.

"We have carried out military actions in the capital even though attempts have been made to conceal the fact," said Ilom, who claims that the guerrillas' main strength lies in their "clandestine organization, which is much larger than their regular military forces."

"The war and the guerrilla fronts are getting closer to the city," Ilom claimed, adding that the activities of the rebel cells in Chimaltenango and Sacatepequez Departments, which are close to Guatemala City, are of "special importance."

"The High Military Command has not been able to manipulate reports to hide this presence," Ilom claimed, but stressed that "they are finding it more difficult to do so now," particularly in neighboring areas, "where we have expanded our operations in recent weeks."

The rebel leader pointed out that "these are not isolated, desperate actions or propaganda activities," noting that the attacks "are part of an overall URNG development plan" for Guatemala as a whole.

According to Ilom, the raids on important military objectives have increased in 1989. He cited "60 operations against fortified Army positions, with a high casualty count."

He spoke of "dozens" of attacks on the "key" Amachel and Caba detachments in El Quiche; Las Cruces, in Peten; Barrancas de Galvez, in San Marcos; and El Socorro and El Pacayalito, in Chimaltenango.

ENFOPRENSA, a news agency that distributes bulletins in San Jose with news from Guatemala, has reported that the URNG "has kept an Army battalion under siege for over 1 month in the vicinity of Ixcan, in the northeastern Quiche Department.

In addition, CERIGUA, the guerrillas' news agency headquartered in Mexico City, has reported that so far in August the URNG has inflicted 15 casualties on the Army, including the death of an Army lieutenant.

Ilom said that the "guerrillas' antiaircraft operations" have become systematic and said that "for the first time in Guatemala's history, a military plane was shot down during a bombing mission. We have shot down 2 helicopters and damaged 18."

It has been reported recently that Honduras has been used to smuggle weapons to the Guatemalan guerrilla organization, which Guatemalan politicians admit is the most legendary and secretive in the area and has existed for 30 years.

According to Ilom, the counterinsurgency policy of Vinicio Cerezo's Christian Democratic government "is a complete failure."

"We have always spared the civilian population. What the people fear is the Army, which has oppressed them since 1980 and is still blaming the guerrillas for its outrages," Ilom added.

The guerrilla commander said that, nevertheless, the URNG is prepared to sit at a negotiating table with the government to work out a political solution to the armed conflict "for humanitarian reasons." He admits, however, that the room for political maneuvering has narrowed during the last few weeks.

Honduras

Army Spokesman Denies El Salvador Troop Raid

PA2908181389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1553 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Aug (ACAN-EFE) — The Honduran Armed Forces today denied its troops raided Salvadoran territory as reported by the Salvadoran guerrillas. Honduran Army civilian spokesman Juan Sierra Fonseca told newsmen that "Honduran troops are simply patrolling the national territory bordering El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, but do not enter the territory of those countries."

According to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], Honduran troops armed with rifles and artillery entered 10 km into Salvadoran territory in Morazan Department. The FMLN report indicates that the Honduran soldiers occupied Nahuaterique, Puente de Piedra, and Palo Blanco, located some 210 km northwest of San Salvador.

"The FLMN usually makes this kind of report to harm the Honduran Army, which prevents the guerillas from entering Honduras when they are being attacked by the Salvadoran troops," Sierra Fonseca said.

He added that "it is the duty of the Honduran Armed Forces to preserve territorial integrity, protect the life and property of citizens, and patrol the entire national territory."

Honduras and El Salvador waged a 100-hour war in 1969 due to border and immigration problems and currently have lawsuits pending at the International Court of Justice on the border issue.

According to the FMLN, the sectors occupied by Honduran soldiers are located in one of the areas included in the territorial dispute.

Investigation Into Weapons Transshipment Begun

PA3008024089 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 26 Aug 89 p 4

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces have ordered military authorities in the country's northwestern sector to investigate charges by the Guatemalan Government regarding the transshipment of weapons into that country from Honduras.

Guatemalan Government Minister Roberto Valle Baldizan made that charge this week, noting the transshipment of weapons could be related to the disbanding process of the anti-Sandinist contras.

Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides said on 25 August "we already ordered the region's military authorities to investigate the charge."

He noted that the northwestern military area is in charge of conducting the investigation because of its proximity to the Guatemalan border, where the charge regarding the transshipment of weapons was made.

Suarez Benavides said that no report on the investigation has been received in Tegucigalpa yet. He added that the investigation will continue in order to establish the validity of the charges.

Nicaragua, Panama To Pay Bills by Barter

PA2808220389 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Aug 89 p 11

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Jose Ramiro Zuniga, manager of the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE], has announced that Nicaragua will pay Honduras with fertilizer and chemical products to retire the 14 million-lempira debt that it owes for being supplied with electricity. Zuniga said that Panama, which owes approximately 4 million lempiras, will pay its debt with molasses and electrical material.

Nicaragua has been paying off its debt with iron rods used in construction. This material is being delivered to the National Supply Agency for Basic Products, Banasupro.

Zuniga said that although this represents an accumulation of debt, Honduras will continue to sell electricity to these countries to the south.

Zuniga added that Panama paid $350,000 on its account last week and has promised to pay the same amount again next week. This will reduce its debt by approximately 3 millon lempiras.

Nicaragua

Former RN Leader Ferrey Returns 28 Aug

PA2908171189 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Lawyer Roberto Ferrey Echaverri, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate, arrived in Managua today at noon. He will join the Democratic Party of National Confidence.

Ferrey was met at the airport by leaders Adan Fletes Valle and Agustin Jarquin Anaya, who were accompanied by party supporters holding placards welcoming him.

It was learned that Ferrey will grant a news conference for national and international journalists at the party's headquarters in La Reinaga neighborhood.

Ferrey arrived with his sister Azucena Ferrey and women's rights supporters Mabel Lopez and Marta Reyes, who will promote a Nicaraguan women's movement. They arrived in a private plane from Guatemala.

Ferrey was expected to arrive on 26 August; however, due to immigrations and Civil Aeronautics problems in Managua, his trip had to be postponed until today.

UNO To Elect Presidential Candidate 31 Aug

PA3008015289 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] On the evening of 28 August the National Opposition Union [UNO] decided to elect its presidential and vice-presidential candidates on 31 August.

The presidential hopeful elected must receive at least 10 votes from the UNO parties.

Six Parties To Back Bolanos as Candidate

PA2908222189 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] It was learned on 28 August in political circles that at least six parties support Enrique Bolanos as a presidential candidate for the 25 February 1990 elections.

It is a known fact that the Liberal Constitutionalist and National Conservative Party have proclaimed Bolanos as presidential candidate.

It has also been learned that parties such as the Neo-Liberal Party (PALI) and two Social Christian organizations have also expressed support to Bolanos and will vote in his favor.

Two other parties, the names of which could not be confirmed, are also willing to support Bolanos.

Contras Desert Camps, Roam Honduran Territory

PA3008031489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Aug 89 pp 1,4

[Article by Martha Marina Gonzalez]

[Text] Teotecacinte—More than 400 counterrevolutionaries have deserted the camps in Yamales and are roaming the areas of Trojes, Cifuentes, Jamastran, El Paraiso, Danli, San Marcos, and Tegucigalpa, desperately trying to slip into the refugee groups to be repatriated—some of them through the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], it was confirmed here by Jose Tomas Osorio Umanzor. He had ties with the contras for 7 years and was finally repatriated on Wednesday 23 August.

An Interior Ministry source confirmed to BARRICADA that a contra deserter passing himself off as a refugee entered the country with a group of people repatriated by the UNHCR.

The Tela agreements have caused havoc not only in the contra ranks, but also in the refugee camps. Their desperation to return to Nicaragua is such that more than 160 persons tried to enter the country on 24 August through the Murupuchi and Cerro La Piedra border posts, but the Honduran Army stopped them because they lacked the necessary documents.

According to Jose Tomas Osorio, the refugees trust the guarantees offered by the Sandinist Government. This was ascertained by several journalists at the Cerro La Piedra border post. Several persons quickly got out of a vehicle but the Honduran troops' presence frustrated their plan.

The Red Cross branch in Jalapa has installed a reception post in Cerro La Piedra, behind the Trojes cemetery, to avoid tragedies like the one which occurred last week, when a youth fell into a mined field. The Nicaraguans will now be able to cross the border, if the Honduran Army allows them, without facing any danger.

Red Cross President Denis Guzman, who is also president of the Peace Commission, spoke on 25 August with the person commanding the Honduran border post. He said that the Red Cross was willing to accept all those who want to return to Nicaragua. The Honduran officer said: "We have no information but, if my commander authorizes it, we will not object and will let them pass. However, we cannot let anyone cross through here for the time being."

Several repatriated persons returning on 23 August through Las Manos confirmed the problems of the refugees at the camps: "There is no freedom to work, the food is rationed, the people are always hungry, and we lived like animals in a corral," stated Ernestina Umanzor, who was kidnapped at the Cifuentes border region and later was repatriated.

Referring to the contras, the Nicaraguans living in Honduran territory said that the former "are outside the law; they have nothing to do; they must put down their weapons; they must be demobilized; they have no business going to third countries; they must return to their homeland," asserted Domingo Orozco.

The repatriated people who arrived at Teotecacinte were welcomed by local people, who were satisfied with their return and said they would support those who wish to farm idle and abandoned lands.

Panama

Government Continues Protests Against U.S.

Ritter: Country Invaded by U.S.

PA3008005989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter has said that all Latin American countries, as well as all nations of the world would fully reject a possible military intervention against Panama. He added: In fact, we will not be invaded, because Panama is already invaded, as U.S. Army troops have occupied towns and other Panamanian positions, thus violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

[Begin recording, broadcast in progress] ...and framework of our protection. We not only asked for the protection of Latin American countries, but also international protection through the United Nations. You can be sure that all Latin American countries and all nations of the world would fully reject a U.S. intervention, which the U.S. Government itself has said is possible, probable, and an option in what they call the Panamanian problem.

I cannot rule out this possibility; on the contrary, we have been alerting international organizations about an imminent military intervention. The situation in Panama is even more serious, because it is not an intervention from the outside, but from the inside. In fact, we are not going to be invaded because we are

already invaded. Panama is a country invaded by the U.S. Army. Panama is a country in which U.S. Army troops have arbitrarily occupied towns, potable water plants, roads, hospitals, and courts, the U.S. Army has occupied areas representing the sovereignty of a nation. In other words, a military intervention would only be the last step of what already constitutes a U.S. invasion. However, as I said, all of Latin America and of course all nations of the world reject that invasion.

It is true that the United States has tried to disguise that invasion under the cover of military maneuvers authorized by the canal treaties. However, I do not rule out the possibility that since the United States has already taken the steps that come before an intervention or invasion, only the final move is pending. Therefore, we believe that Panama and the international community should remain alert due to the imminent and clear possibility of an intervention. [end recording]

More on Solis to Newsmen

PA2908192889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1738 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma today charged the governments of Venezuela, Peru, and Costa Rica with following the U.S. policy toward Panama because these countries have "insisted" on the removal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega as commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces. [FDP].

During a breakfast with foreign press correspondents, the president complained that these countries want to "use Panama" in a "selfish and unfortunate" way. However, Solis said, Panama is not opposed, as it was recently, to admitting Venezuela into the Nonaligned Movement, which will meet in Belgrade on 4 September.

"They want to use Panama, so that we will be the ones who sacrifice our sovereignty and independence. This way, they will not have to face internal conflicts that would arise if Panama is attacked by the United States," Solis said. "They are also very worried about what could happen to them, about the uprisings and protests that may arise in their countries. Therefore, they want us to surrender," Solis added.

The president added that some governments do not respect Panama and have made "harsh statements." "They are exerting pressure based on their own interests," he said, adding: "They insist on maintaining that the removal of Gen Noriega is basic and essential for bringing democracy to Panama. It is a position that corresponds exactly to the position adopted first by (Ronald) Reagan and then by (George) Bush," Solis said, referring to the former and current U.S. presidents. Asked if Panama continues to oppose admitting Venezuela into the Nonaligned Movement, Solis said his government maintained that position, but it has now changed it. "At the beginning, Panama was opposed to the admittance of Venezuela into the Nonaligned Movement because of the Venezuelan position at the OAS and its insistence on adopting Bush's attitude—demanding Noriega's ousting and telling us how we should run the country," the president explained.

"It seems they want to free us, as happened during Bolivar's time. However, we are already liberated," Solis said sarcastically. Nevertheless, he added, contacts were made "and we have ironed out some differences, although this was not done directly with Venezuela." Therefore, we are no longer opposed to admitting Venezuela into the Nonaligned Movement.

The Panamanian president was very ironic about the concern for democracy in this country by a government such as the Venezuelan Government, which, as he said, "mercilessly represses its people, something that does not happen in Panama."

In the past few days, several Latin American governments, like the Peruvian and Colombian ones, have recalled their ambassadors to Panama in view of the worsening crisis and the failure of the dialogue between the regime and the opposition promoted by the OAS.

However, Solis said today that he does not anticipate a widespread breaking of relations with Panama because diplomatic relations "are among states, not among governments."

Group To Attend Nonaligned Meeting

PA3008013989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Official sources reported just a few minutes ago that an official delegation from the Republic of Panama will attend the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement countries scheduled for Belgrade next week.

At that international forum, the Panamanian delegation will raise Panama's problem in view of the United States' invasion plans and will try to get concrete cooperation from these countries regarding Panama's cause and especially from Third World countries which, like Panama, are subject to or run the risk of being attacked by the superpowers.

An advance party of the Panamanian delegation is already in Belgrade organizing the technical work. It was reported this afternoon that part of the Panamanian team will leave tomorrow and the representative of the Executive Branch to the meeting will leave on 3 September.

Provisional Governments Continue To Be Proposed

Solis Palma on Official Options

PA2908181589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1623 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma today said

no decision has yet been made on the type of government that will take office on Friday, 1 September, the day his constitutional term ends.

According to Solis Palma, the only thing certain about the next government is that it will be "provisional," the result of "a political and nonjuridical agreement" achieved outside the Constitution, and that it must "face the U.S. aggression."

At a breakfast with foreign correspondents in Panama, Solis Palma said "all the formulas are being analyzed," adding that he does not even rule out the possibility that he will continue in the Presidency after 1 September if a solution is not found this week.

The only formula he ruled out is the granting of special government powers to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces, but he added that the elimination of that option does not solve the mystery because there are "500 more options."

According to his advisers, Noriega, Panama's "strongman" since 1983, has been holding meetings in recent weeks with various political sectors to decide on the next government.

The constitutional term of the current Panamanian authorities ends on 1 September but as a result of the annulling of the 7 May elections and the failure of the dialogue among the government, military, and opposition, it is not yet known who will replace them or how.

Replying to persistent questions from reporters about the topic, Solis Palma said he hopes the solution will be achieved "before the end of 31 August," but that "circumstances change from moment to moment." Therefore, "the scale tips from one side to another."

Asked about rumors of a government junta formed by government politician Carlos Duque, Colonel Marcos Justines (chief of staff), and Hildebrando Nicosia, leader of a minority group that split off from the opposition, Solis Palma said smiling: "It might be."

Solis Palma stressed that in the past 18 months no effort was made to improve relations with the United States because Washington insists on asking for Noriega's retirement as military commander, something Solis Palma considered "unacceptable."

"This is not a whim. Gen Noriega's permanence is part of our struggle for national liberation," he added.

Regarding the opposition, Solis said that contact with the opposition "has been broken" since the OAS-sponsored dialogue ended last week. If negotiations are to be resumed, he added, it would be "in the months following" 1 September and would be up to the new government.

Solis cautioned that none of the formulas for a new government that are under study are in keeping with the Constitution, because the Constitution has "no provisions for the country's current situation," which came about as a result of the annulment of the 7 May elections.

The president stressed: "There is no legal formula," and added that whatever formula is adopted on 1 September will be the result of a political, and not a constitutional agreement.

Regarding the possibility of remaining in his post beyond 1 September, Solis explained that it would be a "serious crime" if he were to abandon his post before an agreement on a new government is reached, and that this "will not occur."

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, who was accompanying Solis, explained that in this country "everyone has his own idea about a junta and his own interpretation of the Constitution," adding that the speculation over what is going to occur has led people to the extreme of discussing "formulas that are more legal or less legal than others."

"All of the formulas are outside of the Constitution. The solution is whatever political agreement that will garner the most political support," the foreign minister added.

Regarding the possibility of the United States "hardening" its stance regarding Panama, Solis said that he did not believe that this was possible: "It is as hard as it can get. There is nothing more that can be done."

Solis said that he considers that his performance as president over the past 18 months—since he replaced the deposed Eric Arturo Delvalle—was a "success," and compared his performance to that of a light weight boxer who has "held his own" in a boxing ring with the world heavyweight champion, U.S. citizen Mike Tyson.

Solis said: "Everyone predicted that we would last in the Presidency only 1 or 2 weeks, but certainly not 3. We have lasted 18 months."

As proof, he added, there have been no mass firings of public employees and the government has continued to operate, although the state's revenues "dropped to 57 percent" of the norm.

Regarding the offer to negotiate a new relationship between the Panamanian civilian and military sectors that was made to the opposition during the OAS-sponsored dialogue, Solis said that this offer was solely within the framework of the dialogue and is no longer valid.

"It (the proposal for an agreement regarding the government) was not accepted, so we are back to the starting point," Solis stressed.

Solis, Ritter on Possible Junta

PA2908204089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Report on statements by President Manuel Solis Palma and Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter by unidentified reporter at ceremony to decorate Tomas Cupas, UPI correspondent in Panama, on 29 August at Cocina Vasca Restaurant in Panama City—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] When asked by national and international newsmen about the future of the country after 1 September and the legal aspects of a new government, President Solis Palma said:

[Solis] In our opinion, there is no legal formula to resolve the situation. There is no provision for this. The foreign minister, who is an attorney, could probably confirm what I am saying. What attorney can claim that there is a legal formula to resolve the situation? If there was one, we would not be discussing all the possible formulas that have been submitted.

There has been talk about the need for continuity in keeping with the administrative code and about a possible assembly [4-second break in reception]. However, a solution with strong legal backing is not available. Each person is entitled to interpret the laws of the country as he pleases.

In regard to this issue, the foreign minister told me days ago that not only Panamanians are discussing the Panamanian Constitution and laws, but other people are discussing this as well. When one visits the OAS, one finds out that the foreign ministers have their own opinion on how to resolve Panama's problem. They do not have a grasp of the treaties and other aspects. People in Panama and throughout the world are discussing how to fill the power vacuum come 1 September. Nobody has conducted an in-depth study about this situation. I wonder whether the foreign minister, in his capacity as an attorney, could expound on this.

[Ritter] That is true. Besides discussing a possible junta, Panamanians have their own interpretation of the Constitution. They are saying: All situations are illegal, but this possible junta would be less illegal; all candidates for the junta would be outside the framework of the Constitution, but this junta is probably closer to what the Constitution mandates. This pertains to Article 2 dealing with harmonious cooperation.

Some people are saying that the junta should be made up of all those whose terms do not expire by 1 September, such as the attorney general, the controller general, and members of the Supreme Court of Justice. All formulas, and I agree with the president, absolutely all possible formulas are outside the framework of the Constitution, because the Constitution calls for only one solution: Elected people should assume the Presidency on 1 September. However, no one was elected to assume that post.

The goal is to gather the strongest possible consensus, the strongest possible political support. I repeat, all formulas would be outside the framework of the Constitution. The very fact that possible formulas were discussed during the dialogue clearly shows that the government as well as the opposition agree that there is no solution within the framework of the Constitution. We need a political solution, that is, a provisional government that would not be within the framework of the Constitution.[as heard] This government should enjoy the strongest support possible.

This is the only option available come 1 September. In my opinion, there is no other solution than a government enjoying the strongest possible support, because there is no solution within the framework of the Constitution.

[Solis] Even after the provisional government has been established—regardless of what form is chosen—we should resume talks, because we need a political solution. In fact, this government is termed provisional, because it must seek a political agreement in the next few days or months. The time this takes will depend on the circumstances.

[Reporter] When President Solis Palma was consulted about the possibility of establishing a provisional government junta made up of [ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party President] Carlos Duque Jaen, [Arnulfist Authentic Panamenist Party President] Hildebrando Nicosia, and Colonel Marco Justines, the Panama Defense Forces' chief of staff, he replied:

[Solis Palma] It could be. [laughter]

Legislative Commission Suggested

PA2908222989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1749 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Aug (DPA)—The solution proposed by the government parties and the independent Arnulfist Authentic Panamenist Party, includes replacing the present Assembly with a Legislative Commission. It also contemplates the forming of a provisional government junta.

The members of the Assembly, as well as the executive, do not have a constitutional replacement, due to the annullment of the 7 May elections.

According to a spokemsan for one of the proposing parties, the legislative commission could be made up of 36 or 48 persons. However, the spokesman said that there is another proposal for the government junta to rule by decrees.

The spokesman said that if the proposal were to be approved, the legislative commission would start its sessions on 15 September, a date in which the government junta should appoint its cabinet.

In the 85 years of Panama's republican history there have been only three government juntas, one of them a

military junta. The first one was installed in 1903 after Panama's independence from Colombia.

Later in 1968 when President Arnulfo Arias was ousted, a military junta was appointed. It lasted 14 months, being replaced by a civilian junta headed by Demetrio Lakas, who was elected by an assembly of representatives as constitutional president of Panama.

9 Parties To Propose Plan

PA2908234589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 29 Aug 89 pp A-1, B-2

[Report by Cesar Gomez Marin]

[Text] Representatives of the eight political parties that make up COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] and the independent opposition Arnulfista Authentic Panamenist Party (PPAA) met during the evening of 28 August at the Holiday Inn Hotel to begin discussions to draft, in less than 72 hours, a plan for a government or government junta of national reconstruction with broad participation. The ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] parties did not attend, although they were invited.

Hildebrando Nicosia, PPAA president and its presidential candidate in the past elections, said this meeting was a follow-up to the talks held in Cerro Azul, which the ADOC was also invited to attend, to find a way to overcome the crisis for the sake of the country.

"I want to go on the record as saying that they have never accepted these invitations because the people of the Christian Democratic Party, Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, and the Authentic Liberal Party are not really interested in the country's problem of hunger and jobs for the people of Panama but in gaining power," Nicosia charged.

The meeting began at 1900 following a brief encounter with the local and foreign press that had gathered there. Nicosia briefed them on all the previous meetings the nine political parties held in which agreements and statements were made, such as the ones made at the Riande Hotel that proposed a national reconstruction government with broad political participation. These meetings were suspended with the start of the talks among COLINA, the government, the FDP [Panama Defense Forces], ADOC, and the OAS.

Nicosia told the press he is sure that the parties gathered here—namely the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], the Labor Party [PALA], Liberal Party, Republican Party, People's Party [PDP], Democratic Workers Party [PDT], Revolutionary Panamenist Party [PPR], National Action Party [PAN], and the PPAA,—will reach an agreement to recommend to the Executive and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. Meaning that the constituted government, a government or government junta of national unity or national reconstruction should be established, in accordance with the laws and legal procedures, with the country's political forces that have participated in the talks for the sake of the fatherland.

"At 1800 on 31 August, at the latest, the representatives from these parties, along with the Executive Branch, are going to present a solution we deem feasible to overcome the political crisis that stemmed from the annulment of the 7 May elections for reasons well known to all," Hildebrando Nicosia told newsmen.

Nicosia explained that the parties do not mean to take over the functions of the Council of State and the FDP, which as the constituted government must make a decision. We are going to present a recommendation arrived at by consensus to overcome the crisis for the sake of Panama; this is a political consensus because we, politicians, must solve this thing, Nicosia stated.

Moreover, Gerardo Sanchez, representative of majority party PRD, reiterated that his party endorses the creation of a junta or government of national reconstruction comprised of three civilian members, with a broad political participation of the parties that have been involved in seeking the best solution for the country. "The PRD supports the formula for the creation of a national reconstruction government where the parties that have participated in the talks must logically have a role in it as part of the country."

Attending the meeting were: Gerardo Sanchez for PRD; Carlos Orillac for the Liberal Party; Alberto Velasquez for the PALA; Jorge Young and Leopoldo Alguero for the Republican Party; Camilo Saavedra and Marcos Cordoba for PAN; Hildebrando Nicosia and Diogenes Sagel for PPAA; Eduardo Rios for the PDT; Francisco Puente and Javier Lopez for PPR; and Miguel Porcell and Rupert Thomas for PDP.

Solis Comments on Dignity Battalion Enrollment

PA3008012289 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, said this morning that no decision has been made yet as to the type of government that will assume power on 1 September. Only one thing is sure, and that is it will be a provisional government resulting from a political, not juridical agreement, he asserted, adding that several formulas are being considered. This is an excerpt of his statements:

[Begin Solis recording] That is why we are making a thorough evaluation of the situation. What cannot happen is that we step down if no decision is made from now to 1 September. That is impossible because I would be showing contempt for the laws by forsaking my position without having someone to replace me. This would be a serious crime, particularly by the Presidency of the republic. However, I do not think this situation will arise. [end recording]

Solis was also questioned about the enrollment of public employees in the Dignity Battalions. He said:

[Begin Solis recording] First of all, we have insisted that nobody is obliged to join the Dignity Battalions. What may be happening is that when public officials are told to enroll—and this is not on orders from the Executive Branch, or any cabinet minister, or any director of independent agencies, because they have exact instructions not to ask anyone to enroll—all begin enrolling thinking that perhaps they will get into trouble. Well, they will not get into any such trouble. However, after they voluntarily enroll, they go out and say that they are being forced to enroll. This is typical of many of our compatriots.

Regarding the question of whether we are talking of a professional force or not, and why we have the Dignity Battalions, which may not be professional forces, one of the things we have discussed with the people who head these organizations is simply that their members must be trained. Dignity Battalion members will not be involved in usual actions at the frontline, but we indeed feel that, in the event of an aggression, we must have the necessary reserves to repel it. What we are trying to do is to make the battalion members highly professional. We will not arm them except when required. [end recording]

Controversy Surrounds Arrests of Students

Attorney General on Arrests

PA3008014189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2353 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Today, Attorney General Carlos Villalaz, accompanied by Auxiliary Prosecutor Mario Ballesteros and G-2 [Armed Forces Intelligence], DENI [National Department of Investigation], and Panama Police Force units, raided house 230-C, located on Camino Real Street in the Betania neighborhood of Panama City. During the raid 18 Molotov bombs were confiscated and the owner of the house, Andrea Charris de Paez, was arrested. Also arrested were university students Arturo Dominiche Arosemena, Roque Bonager Viera del Cid, and Pedro Argon Arauz. All the persons arrested are Panamanians. After the house was thoroughly searched, Attorney General Carlos Villalaz gave a report of the action and the reasons for it:

[Begin recording] We are here in the house that is owned by the Panamanian Andrea Charris de Paez who has Cedula 3-52-189. The house is No 230-C and is located on Camino Real Street in the Betania neighborhood. We had information that students were making Molotov cocktails in this house. When we raided it we found 18 Molotov cocktails that had been made with gasoline, beer bottles, and broken glass. The containers were filled with gasoline. We also found subversive Christian Democratic Party propaganda in the bedrooms. Based on the raid's results, we arrested Andrea Charris de Paez and the following university students: Arturo Dominiche Arosemena, Panamanian with Cedula 8-425-228; Roque Bonager Viera Del Cid, Panamanian with Cedula 4-139-1500; and Pedro Argon Arauz, Panamanian with Cedula 8-293-615. According to the information we have gathered up to now and the confessions made by the persons arrested, the students are members of the group called Avanzada. Avanzada is a Christian Democratic Party cell in the University of Panama, and the students are in the Schools of Science and Architecture. The Molotov bombs were to be used against Panama Defense Forces members when they tried to stop a demonstration that the students had prepared for today in the University of Panama. They were going to throw the Molotov bombs into the public order units and create unrest.

Furthermore, and based on the statements made by the arrested students, there are other university groups and cells in the same type of activity. The Attorney General's Office, in coordination with DENI, G-2, and the Panama Police Forces, carried out this action today, and we will also raid several houses tonight to locate other persons who are implicated in these actions. We will not mention houses or names of students at this time to ensure the security and effectiveness of our operations. What we will say is that we have given precise orders to have houses raided and to arrest other students who are involved in preparing bombs to disrupt our city's peace. [end recording]

University Students React

PA2908174589 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1711 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] A group of university students, faces were covered by handkerchiefs, this morning blocked Manuel Espinoza Batista Avenue in front of the University of Panama. The students were protesting the arrest early this morning of four fellow students: Roque Riera, Pedro Arauz, Arturo [name indistinct], and Juan Paez. Students of the School of Public Administration also protested against the country's current political and socioeconomic situation. No violence has been reported during the demonstrations.

More on Demonstrations

PA3008014989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2046 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Aug (REUTER)—Panamanian students set up barricades in the streets of the capital today in protest over the arrest of four of their comrades by security forces.

Some 50 students, shouting "Down with the dictatorship," set up barricades made of stones and burning sticks on a street close to Panama's Technological University and threw stones at several vehicles that were trying to pass by, according to bystanders.

The students, who refused to give their names, said that they were protesting because security forces arrested four of their comrades on Monday night, 28 August, for unknown reasons.

They also said that they were protesting the annulment of the 7 May elections and restrictions on freedom of expression. The oppposition claims to have won the elections, despite attempts by the followers of military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega to alter the results.

Witnesses report having seen military vehicles deployed near the protest site, but said the military did not intervene to stop the protest.

The students entered the university campus 1 hour after a high-ranking university official urged them to end their protest because it might lead the authorities to close the university. [In a further report, Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 29 August notes that the University of Panama will "suspend academic and administrative activities" on 1 September, and that several forums will be held at the university to allow students and staff members to air their views on national events in order to avoid "other actions that might disrupt the proper functioning of the institution."]

Meanwhile, the opposition Christian Democratic Party said in a communique that 12 of its members had been detained since 26 August for unknown reasons. The communique said that two party officials in the western Chiriqui Province had to cross the border into neighboring Costa Rica to avoid being arrested by the authorities, who had issued warrants for their arrest.

University Suspends Classes

PA3008000889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2313 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] This afternoon, the academic board of Panama Technological University decided to suspend classes in all its installations in the country, starting tomorrow, 30 August, up to Wednesday, 6 September. The university's administrative section will continue to operate on its normal schedule in Panama City and in the interior of the country.

FDP Detects 'Subversive' Groups, Makes Arrests

PA2908212389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1940 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Report by Arnoldo Candanedo in Chiriqui Province—live or recorded]

[Text] Authorities from the 5th Military Zone of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have detected subversive groups that were operating in Villa Neilly, Costa Rica with the purpose of turning Panama into another El Salvador. FDP troops from the 5th Military Zone carried out a special intelligence operation and captured Florentino Mendoza Morales, Diego Cortez Cubilla, Mario Davila, alias El Nica; Esperanza Pineda Rodriguez, and Italo Delgado Hernandez, all Panamanian citizens, who were arrested, turned over to the proper authorities, and charged with undermining the internal security of Panamanian state.

According to the Attorney General's Office, these persons have confessed their participation in the subversive movement, and indicated that their leaders are Ramon Aizpurua, Robledo Miranda, Pedro Chavarria, and other individuals belonging to the Christian Democratic Party and the Green Star Party, all of whom are fugitives of Panamanian justice.

According to the arrested persons, the foiled subversive movement was planning to blow up bridges in order to disrupt communications, destroy FDP garrisons, and damage banks and important shops in order to obtain funds and purchase weapons, explosives, and food for the individuals who would conduct terrorist actions to harm the Panamanian people, particularly during the days prior to 1 September 1989.

The individuals recruited for these subversive activities were training in a place called the Farm of the German Citizen, located close to the border area on the Costa Rican side. They were also being trained in El Refugio de Achiote, near San Isidro, where Nicaraguans had been recruited for the same activities. Leaders of the movement had guaranteed permanent residence in Panama to the recruits as soon as there was a change of government.

According to the detained persons, these subversive plans were told to Guillermo Endara and Guillermo "Billy" Ford, who said they did not approve of these actions. However, Robledo Miranda, one of the main chieftains, said he was not going to do away with the plan and waste all of the investments made so far. This included having purchased a boat to transport the guerrillas from Puerto Jimenez, Costa Rica to Punta Burica, Baru District. Once the residents of the region, who engage in productive tasks, found out about these plans, they expressed concern and alarm over the serious threat to their safety and families. They cooperated and made public the plans to destabilize and oust the Panamanian Government at the cost of the blood and lives of innocent and defenseless persons.

It was also ascertained that the subversive plans included the installation of a clandestine radio station, brought from the United States through contacts that [Omayra] Mayin Correa has in that northern country, with the intention of carrying out a disinformation campaign, subverting order, and causing bloodshed among the Panamanian people—while the seditious chieftains are spared and kept safe abroad.

The subversive group was financed by Robledo Miranda, Ramon Aizpurua, Italo Delgado, and other persons whom Florentino Mendoza had asked to give money for these subversive plans. Rafael de la Sera also received money to engage in these subversive activities, but he used the money differently because he does not believe in this type of violent action in Panama—because our country is a country of peace and an enemy of war.

Referring to this subversive group operating in Villa Neilly, the Panamanian authorities have notified the

Costa Rican authorities about the situation so they adopt measures and not allow the use of their territory to threaten the peace of a neighboring friendly country like the Republic of Panama—whom all responsible and patriotic Panamanians will defend for its atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

More Institutions Join Defense Committee

PA2908222789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The Panamanian Institute of Tourism [IPAT] workers began enrolling this morning in the Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity [CODEPADI], which operates as a guardian in each of the government institutions. The enrollment included IPAT workers from Colon, the central provinces, and Chiriqui. The enrollment took place at the Atlapa Convention Center, and was headed by IPAT Manager Bernardo Dominguez.

The CODEPADI are organizations that are assigned to the Dignity Brigades and are entrusted with defending and protecting the institutions where they work, in response to threats of a takeover by groups that are hostile to the national government.

Panama municipality workers joined the CODEPADI to guard the installations and its personnel. This afternoon, a meeting was held to evaluate and coordinate the immediate actions the Panama municipality's CODEPADI will take to prepare the personnel to repel a possible armed attack by U.S. military troops. Physical and weapons handling training will begin tomorrow at Revolution Stadium.

The Panama Government, through the DIGEDECOM [General Directorate for Community Development], the Dignity Brigades, and other organizations, will begin the massive training of the CODEPADI on 29 August at 0900 at the Revolution Stadium.

DIGEDECOM Director Dario Fernandez and Dignity Brigade Commander Benjamin Colamarco report on the event:

[Beging recording] [Fernandez] As part of the overall defense strategy, we are considering the military and physical training, security of public buildings, emergency evacuation of buildings in case of need, and everything related to first aid and civilian protection as well as counterintelligence. We believe counterintelligence to be important because we have reports that there are many leaks by people who have arrived from other places and countries—mercenaries, to call them by their proper name. We believe we are preparing all public workers so that they can be in good shape to respond properly in case of an attack.

[Reporter] Mr Benjamin, how many people are being trained in Panama?

[Colamarco] That information is confidential. What we can say is that from 22 August, there are thousands being trained who have joined the Dignity Brigades and CODEPADI. These are groups that work in close coordination with the Dignity Brigade Patriotic Coordinating Command [Comando Patriotico de Coordinacion de la Brigada de la Dignidad, COPACOBRIG]. Therefore, we can say that thousands of Panamanians have joined this struggle and we have now reached the stage of executing specific tasks. Therefore, this week, all the CODEPADI and all the properly trained brigades are combat ready in case invading U.S. Army troops try to move into our cities. We are also prepared to face U.S. Army agents who have infiltrated our territory. [end recording]

'Massive Training' Begun

PA3008002189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] DIGEDECOM [General Directorate for Community Development] Director Dario Fernandez Jaen has announced that the national government will conduct a massive training of members of the Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity, CODEPADI, through the DIGEDECOM, Dignity Battalions, and other organizations. The training will begin today at 0900.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The overall defense training—physical and military—will include security at public buildings, procedures to evacuate buildings in case of emergencies, first aid attention, and civil defense. Another area will be counterintelligence, which is important as we have learned of infiltrations, including individuals who have arrived from other countries; mercenaries, to call them by their name.

We are preparing public employees so that they will be ready to act in case of a confrontation. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Dignity Battalions Commander Benjamin Colamarco said that thousands have joined the Defense Committees.

[Begin Colamarco recording] I can tell you that thousands have been trained since 22 August. They have joined the defense structures through the Dignity Battalions and CODEPADI, which works in coordination with the Dignity Battalion's Patriotic Coordination Command [Comando Patriotico de Coordinacion de las Brigadas de Dignidad] COPACOBRIG.

As I said, thousands of Panamanians have joined this struggle. We have already entered the phase of carrying out specific tasks. This week, all the duly installed CODEPADI and the properly trained battalions are combat ready in case the U.S. Army's invading forces should attempt to take over our cities.

We are also ready to face the U.S. Army agents who have infiltrated our territory. [end recording]

Haitian Solidarity Committee Issues Communique

PA2908230089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The Haitian Committee of Solidarity With Panama has sent an urgent communique urging friendly people of Latin America and the world to state their solidarity with the Panamanian people and counter the United States' military threat. The committee is comprised of general and labor organizations in that Caribbean nation, and its president is Ydly Cameau.

The document also condemns the U.S. Government's aggressive policy and demands the evacuation of U.S. troops from Panamanian territory—which humiliate the honor and dignity of the heroic Panamanian people, who are courageously withstanding this infamous aggression.

Columnist Assesses Political Alternatives

PA3008045089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 29 Aug 89 pp 1, 7

["Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Human Rights and Political Alternatives"]

[Text] Today I will discuss two topics. The first is the OAS foreign ministers' recommendation that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [IAHRC] return to Panama as requested by the Colonialist-ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance], whose ill-qualified leaders believe that the organization's return will restore their power to rally the people.

Regarding this issue, Carlos Duque Jaen, president of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, said: If the IAHRC respects the actions carried out by the OAS, whose authority surpasses its own, "it will be forced to condemn the United States for its military exhibitionism—which borders on the unwholesome—and for its disregard for the treaties and our national sovereignty."

Duque added: "Either IAHRC President Bruni Celli faithfully interprets the new OAS or—should the contrary be true—I propose that he not be allowed to enter the country."

I must begin by saying that I do not believe there is a new OAS. I do not share the optimism, because the United States is still holding that trump card and a lot of water must yet pass under that bridge.

In their flirtation with George Bush's administration, the OAS members overlooked one of their true missions: to be mediators in conflicts between two or several states and to seek solutions through peaceful means. Because of this, they have turned a deaf ear and have remained silent in response to the Yankees' economic aggression, their constant violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and their threat to use force to impose their political will on Panama.

Meanwhile, IAHRC President Marco Tulio Bruni Celli is also international relations secretary of the Democratic Action Party, which led Carlos Andres Perez to power—Perez, whom the Panamanian people must kick out of our country the day he dares to step on our dear native soil. That same Bruni Celli told reporters on 25 August in Caracas that he "agrees" with the alternative of political and economic pressures, including breaking diplomatic relations with Panama." [no opening quotation marks as received] With statements such as these, can the Panamanian people expect this Bruni Celli to be impartial as president of the IAHRC? Let him die far from here, as my friend "Pildorin" Galego says.

The second topic involves the Panamanian people's uncertainty over the government's conformation as of Friday, 1 September. On 23 May 1989, a Tuesday, I offered my readers a few alternatives, not to say that they were the only ones.

Today I offer these alternatives once again, although I must acknowledge that some of them, not all, have been dismissed. As a political exercise, however, some of them are valid. You may choose the alternative that best suits you, my dear readers:

All of These Agreements Would Require a Multipartisan Agreement

1. The Assembly extends the mandate of Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, for 2 more years:
a. Provincial and District Councils and the Assembly are dissolved.
b. The Executive Branch governs by decree.
c. Elections will be held within the next 2 years.
2. Solis Palma's mandate expires on 31 August 1989.
a. The Assembly summons the Supreme Court's chief justice to take over the nation's presidency.
b. Elections will be held within the next 2 years.
c. Provincial and District Councils and the Assembly are disssolved.
d. Government is by decree.
3. Solis Palma's mandate is extended for 2 years.
a. The Assembly and other councils are dissolved.
b. Government is by decree.
c. The Constituent Assembly is elected and assembled within 1 year.
d. The Constituent Assembly elects a president whose mandate will expire in 1994.

All of these alternatives would require an agreement among all of the political parties that participated in the past electoral race. They will also be required to make a declaration of principles rejecting foreign interference for any reason whatsoever and demanding noninterference in Panama's internal affairs, fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and the Panamanian people's right to self-determination.

Other alternatives are:
1. Coup d'etat

A provisional civilian-military government. A transition period. General Noriega would not be required to leave the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] command or the country.

2. Military Coup

FDP governs for 2 years and calls for the election of a Constituent Assembly. Gen Noriega continues as civilian-military leader of the national liberation plan, continuing and deepening the revolutionary process.

Argentina

Cavallo: Lawmakers' UK Visit 'Significant'

PY2908030689 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has termed significant the visit that some Argentine lawmakers will pay to Great Britain. Cavallo said that the contacts that the Argentine lawmakers will make with their British counterparts within the framework of the World Parliamentary Union will strengthen the possibilities for success in the negotiations between the two countries.

Pierri Interviewed on Talks

PY2908235489 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Aug 89 p 9

[Interview with Alberto Pierri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and a leader of the congressional delegation going to the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in London, by reporter Lorenzo Amengual on 28 August]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] BUENOS AIRES HERALD [BAH]: Is the sovereignty issue included in the agenda of the meeting which will take place in Madrid starting from October 17?

Alberto Pierri [AP]: The sovereignty issue is not specifically included in the agenda for the negotiations but neither is it excluded. I think that one achievement of Argentine diplomacy is the fact that Great Britain has referred to the "umbrella" metaphor in the sense that the issue of sovereignty over the islands will not be touched but neither will it be overlooked.

BAH: On what bases will the negotiations take place?

AP: On the basis of proceeding with political realism and allowing the faits accomplis to speak for themselves....

BAH: Are you saying that for a future declaration of a ceasefire?

AP: I am saying it in order to lift the status quo and because of the receptivity which the initiative of the Argentine Government to re-establish bilateral relations has enjoyed on both the domestic and foreign fronts. The opinion polls here show that the receptivity and support for these decisions is considerable. Furthermore, the international community—of that I have no doubt—views these efforts with enormous pleasure and approval.

BAH: What agenda has been slated for Madrid?

AP: The agenda to consider with Britain is broad and requires a minimum level of reciprocity in the decisions which are reached. Above all, it is a question of exercising political realism with great balance: In every negotiation, as is well known, one of the sides has to yield in return for something which the other grants.

BAH: Argentina will not be submitting the conflict this year to the consideration of the United Nations. Doesn't this mean relinquishing an important international forum?

AP: No, it means adjusting to the political realism which I mentioned before. Submitting the resolution to the UN loses its relevance with October's bilateral meeting in sight.

BAH: What are your expectations with regard to October's meeting?

AP: We want to arrive at a peaceful and negotiated solution. In that direction the renewal of formal dialogue has an enormous relevance for the government which I represent. We must be measured, serious and responsible in evaluating the contacts and conversations with Great Britain. Nobody must expect a gracious concession. The expectations will therefore adjust themselves step by step to the advances gained. [passage omitted]

BAH: As I said at the beginning of this interview, I take it for granted that the question of the islands will be present in your interviews during your stay in London as from September 2.

AP: We have scheduled a series of contacts with congressmen and British authorities which aren't officially related to the direct conversations which will be held in Madrid. But obviously the issue of the islands will be there....

BAH: Within or beyond the activities of the Interparliamentary Council?

AP: Within and beyond. Eduardo Menem's Council speech will be on the Malvinas Islands....

BAH: Two Conservative backbenchers protested in London over the journey, especially over Eduardo Menem's presence.

AP: I've read the information on that published in the newspapers. I understand this as the minority expression of a sector of the British Government. In no way has it changed the meaning of Queen Elizabeth II's invitation nor our plans....

BAH: What will you say to British MPs and officials when they ask you on the Armed Forces' position on the renewal of talks?

AP: That there is no incompatibility between the renewal of talks and the prudence and support which the High Commands of the Armed Forces have shown over the initiative.

BAH: They will surely want to know, for example, if the Air Force will suspend its research work to develop a Condor II missile capable of striking the Malvinas from the mainland.

AP: The research and development work into the Condor missile do not form part of the agenda which will

be discussed in Madrid. I repeat that in conversations a certain reciprocity and political realism is required without which it would have been impossible to have unblocked a relationship which was frozen in 1984, the date of the attempt at open-agenda talks in Berne.

Government Issues Communique on Territorial Sea

PY3008033289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0038 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Aug (DYN)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry this evening clarified recent press reports by reiterating that Argentina has a territorial sea that extends 12 miles off its coast.

The clarifiction is included in a press communique that the ministry released this evening.

The ministry stated that the objective of the communique is to clarify press reports about a note on Argentina's maritime territory signed by former Foreign Ministry Secretary Susana Ruis Cerruti.

The explanatory communique states that "the Argentine territorial sea extends 12 miles off its coast. In this area, our country exercises full sovereignty and respects the right of innocent passage of ships of third countries."

"Argentina also has an exclusive economic zone, which extends from 12 to 200 miles off its coast. Argentina exercises sovereignty over the resources in this zone. In this area the exploration, development, management, and conservation of natural resources are being handled exclusively by Argentina. Argentina, however, recognizes that a system of free air and maritime navigation is in force in this area, in line with the terms of Law No 17,094, which was approved in 1966," the communique added.

Rico Files Charges; Luder Comments on Amnesty

PY3008000889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Aug 89 pp 1, 20

[Text](NA-DYN) Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico—under prosecution for leading two military uprisings—filed criminal charges for slander against Army Chief-of Staff Isidro Caceres, who described the former's behaviour as "dishonourable" for having shown himself at public places.

In his presentation to Federal Judge Miguel del Castillo Rico held that the Army chief "is obliged by his military rank and the post he holds to respect his subordinates by upholding ethical principles."

Rico, leader of the Holy Week and Monte Caseros rebellions in 1987 and 1988, said he felt insulted by Caceres' statements. The latter said that it was "dishonourable for Rico to show himself in public places, in expensive cafes," and that it constituted "a lack of respect for his own comrades."

Since the Army chief's statements were picked up by the press, Rico pointed out that "it is clear that Caceres issued those insulting statements in public," a fact he considered aggravated by his position as head of the Army.

Rico added that "Caceres has described my attitude dishonourable, when I was just exercising very personal rights during my legitimate time off, which was unjustly denied me for over two years."

The former rebel also complained that "I have been in prison for more than two years, during which no sentence was issued in any of the different cases" of accusation against him.

He thus defined his imprisonment as "political" and attributed it to his alleged attempt to "defend the dignity of the Army."

Finally, Rico asked that Caceres be convicted to the worst sanction stipulated for cases of slander, which consists of a year in prison and compensation for moral and material damage.

In related news, Defence Minister Italo Luder said yesterday that "we must not make such a big deal over some 20 cases (of officers convicted for violating human rights)," when the former government exempted almost 1,000 of any responsibility.

On the other hand, Luder said emphasis should be placed on "resolving the country's internal problems" in order to "ensure the mature coexistence of Argentines."

The minister made these statements to the press after meeting with Brazilian Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, who is on a protocol visit to Argentina.

On the pardon issue, he reiterated that "we must take into account the full stop [law of expiration] and due obedience laws passed by the former government, which pardoned some 1,000 of the accused."

For his part, retired General Carlos Cerda—who played a role in the National Reorganization Process and in the former Radical government—yesterday called for a "mature reconciliation" regarding the consequences of the 1970s fight against subversion.

He also blasted the "slander campaign" allegedly launched against the Armed Forces, which made the military feel as though they were being "tried by the community."

Cerda described the antisubversive campaign as "an armed internal conflict in which the military institutions fought in defence of the supreme good: The protection of the people."

Nevertheless, he admitted that there were "justified and unjustified deaths, necessary and unnecessary suffering, rightful or undue imprisonments."

Progressive Democratic Party Head Reelected

PY2808122989 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 27 Aug 89 p 5

[Excerpt] During a regular national convention of the Progressive Democratic Party [PDP] yesterday, Rafael Martinez Raymonda, a deputy-elect for the Alliance of the Center-Buenos Aires [Alianza de Centro—Capital Federal], was reelected PDP president. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Minister Denies Heavy U.S. Air Operations

PY3008013289 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Aeronautics Minister Luis Gonzales Quintanilla has said that the reports of heavy U.S. air operations at Santa Cruz airport are false. He explained that the reports datelined Santa Cruz on illegal overflights and landing of foreign planes are groundless. He said that authorization for such activity must be requested from Aeronautics Ministry officials, and they are not aware of any operations.

The minister said that all commercial flights are controlled by the national civil aviation directorate, and that military flights are controlled by the Air Force.

He explained that a few days ago a large U.S. airplane arrived and unloaded 2 helicopters to reinforce the air support to antidrug operations. Quintanilla said that, under the terms of bilateral traties signed with the United States, our country sometimes authorizes U.S. airplanes to make refueling stops in Bolivia. These stops should not be mistaken for other type of activity.

The minister concluded by saying that both the Bolivian Air Force and his ministry are aware that the laws that regulate air navigation must be complied with.

Official Terms Antidurg Forces 'Insufficient'

PY2908193089 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Aug 89 p 6

[Text] Antidrug authorities have said that 1,200 agents are participating in the antidrug campaign in Bolivia. They consider this number to be insufficient to perform such an important task.

The 1,200 Bolivian servicemen belong to the Mobile Units for Rural Areas (UMOPAR), which is subordinated to the Police, the Air Force, and the Navy.

Defense Social Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico has said that they are facing important problems such as shortage of personnel, and a lack of economic resources and experts to control the various small but active rings that promote trafficking and money laundering in Bolivia.

According to Torrico, the poor conditions under which the antidrug struggle is being conducted have prevented the government from fulfilling its duty of defending the people, and have allowed the drug traffickers to strengthen their position. In view of this situation, the production of pure cocaine (cocaine hydrocloride) and drug trafficking have increased along the border.

The Bolivian Government is planning to reinforce the control along its border with Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay to stifle the drug trade.

Authorities from the police, the Bolivian Air Force (FAB) and the Navy, who are participating in the antidrug struggle have submitted a proposal to General Humberto Palacios, the commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force, to establish 20 narcotic checkpoints in several Bolivian regions.

Freddy Ferrufino of the FAB, Roberto Bozo of the Army, Ship-of-the-Line Captain Alfredo Moran of the Navy, and Dino Guzman of the police signed the proposal that will be submitted to the Social Defense Under Secretariat.

The proposed plan envisages the creation of checkpoints in Boyuibe, Puerto Pisiga, Cobija, Tambo Quemado, and other regions where no antidrug operations have yet been conducted.

New Political Council Members Named 24 Aug

PY2908191289 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Aug 89 p 1

[Excerpts] The Political Council of the Patriotic Agreement, comprising the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action], and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party], was established yesterday. This council will be entrusted with coordinating the strategies of the ruling political parties with the objective of strengthening democracy.

The Political Council is headed by ADN Chairman General Hugo Banzer Suarez and it comprises 14 members and four alternate members, all of whom were selected from the MIR, ADN, and the PDC. [passage omitted]

The Political Council is made up of: Oscar Eid Franco, Guillermo Capobianco, Gonzalo Valda, Carmen Pereira, Mario Rueda Pena, Gaston Encinas and Samuel Doria Medina, all of whom are MIR members. It also is comprised of Guillermo Fortun, Antonio Ormachea, Ronald MacLean, Yarmila de Cerruto, Mario Rolon Anaya, Franz Ondarza, who are members of the ADN; and Jorge Agreda, who represents the PDC.

Alternate members are: Luis Gonzalez, Hugo Carvajal, Leopoldo Lopez and Lauro Ocampo from the MIR. [passage omitted]

PRC Offers Small Hydroelectric Power Plants

PY2908183289 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 22 Aug 89 p 4

[Text] The Energy and Hydrocarbons Ministry yesterday reported that the Bolivian Government has received an offer from the PRC to install small hydroelectric power plants.

According to the National Electric Power Directorate [Direccion Nacional de Electricidad], these small power plants will yield enough power for those towns that have water resources, thus eliminating the cost of installing powerlines from a larger power plant. The Energy and Hydrocarbons Ministry also indicated that the cost of running one of these plants will be lower than running a diesel generator in towns in eastern Bolivia.

The technical data supplied by the National Electric Power Directorate shows that for this type of plant to be profitable there must be a minimum consumption of 120 to 130 kw per user, based on a 5-member family.

The official response of the Bolivian Government has not yet been disclosed. It is believed, however, that the PRC offer is currently being reviewed by government officials.

It has also been learned that Norwegian and Swedish companies would also be interested in the installation of small electric power plants.

Andean Satellite Launch Planned for 1994

PY2908153789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0311 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] La Paz, 28 Aug (EFE)—Eduardo Pichilingue, director of the Association of Andean State Telecommunications Enterprises (ASETA), said here today that the Andean telecommunications satellite will be launched in 1994. The Andean Pact countries considered the launch of this satellite to be priority issue in 1984.

Pichilingue said that the satellite was initially scheduled to be launched in 1992, but that this deadline had been modified. Pichilingue is attending the fourth ASETA-sponsored meeting on human resources in La Paz.

He noted, however, that the project is moving "according to the established timetables; the congresses of the Andean Pact member countries are now in the process of approving this project and of ratifying the agreement that created ASETA," which will be charged with administering the satellite system.

Pichilingue added that this project will cost over $200 million and will be financed by Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

He said that much of the engineering work and other studies related to the future satellite and the establishment of ground stations are under way and that an international bid for purchasing and installing the equipment will be announced as soon as they are finished.

Brazil

Concern Over Traffickers Crossing Border

Police Director Visits Area

PY2908235989 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Federal Police Director Romeu Tuma is on his way to the Colombian border. Federal Police are concerned about the possibility of Colombian drug traffickers escaping into Brazil.

In the Amazonas State, Brazil has more than 1,600 km of border with Colombia. The town of Tabatinga, on the Brazilian side, right across from the Colombian town of Leticia, is the main point of entry into Brazilian territory. Military Police are also in Tabatinga, helping to look for Colombian drug traffickers who may have entered Brazil. Several suspicious individuals have been arrested and several cars have been seized.

Navy Minister Comments

PY2908121889 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Navy Minister Enrique Saboia yesterday said that he does not believe that the Colombian cocaine kings are escaping to Brazil. However, he said that the Navy is ready to participate in the fight against drug trafficking if requested.

Sarney Asserts Will Remain in Office Until Mar

PY3008024489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] President Jose Sarney today denied that he intends to leave office in January 1990. Upon arriving at the Brasilia Air Base, President Sarney asserted that he will stay in office for the period established in the Constitution: until March 1990.

President Sarney was coming from the Pirassununga Air Base in Sao Paulo, where yesterday he visited the Pirassununga Air Force Academy. Air Force Minister Octavio Moreira Lima and the six brigadiers of the Air Force high command accompanied the president on the visit.

President Sarney visited the Academy, where the pilot officers are trained, and the flew over the Pirassununga region for 1 hour as a copilot of a Tucano plane, which is manufactured by Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company].

During the visit, President Sarney talked to the cadets and pointed out to them how important keeping the professionalism of the Armed Forces members is. He

stressed the importance of their mission, of fulfilling their duties, and of defending the Constitution.

6th Military Region Commander Replaced

PY3008022689 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Summary] In a ceremony in Salvador, General Joao Carlos Rota today transferred the command of the 6th Military Region to General Leonidas Silveira Lee. General Rota will now head one of the Armed Minister's directorates in Brasilia.

Cuban Meningitis Vaccine Arrives 27 Aug

PY2908040089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Yesterday afternoon 200,000 doses of Cuban-made vaccine against B-type meningitis arrived in Rio de Janeiro. The vaccine is being kept in refrigerators at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Diocruz) in Manguinhos. This is the first shipment of an order for 10 million doses the Health Ministry placed with the Cuban Government. The vaccine will be tested by technicians of the National Institute for Health Quality Control (INCQS) and will then be sent to the areas with higher incidence of B-type meningitis. The tests on the vaccine take an average 30 days.

The rest of the order will arrive before 15 January. Jose Noronha, Rio de Janeiro state health secretary, said on 27 August that he does not know if some of the vaccine will be used in Rio de Janeiro, because, he said, there is no meningitis epidemic in the state.

New Gas Deposit Found in Rio Grande do Norte

PY2908033489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Aug 89

[By Severino Machado]

[Text] Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] has struck natural gas in Rio Grande do Norte State. This is the largest deposit of gas and light condensed oil ever found in the Rio Grande do Norte basin. The [word indistinct] showed in tests that the well, which is near the Pescada oil field, will yield 250,000 cubic meters a day, thus increasing by nearly 4 million cubic meters the volume of recoverable gas, which had been previously estimated at about 1.5 billion cubic meters. This is the last of a series of seven wells already drilled in the area. Petrobras experts in Rio Grande do Norte State believe that the discovery is especially significant because it will supply the northeastern region gas pipeline, which currently carries 652,000 cubic meters of gas a day to the industries in the states of Rio Grande do Norte, Paraiba, and Pernambuco.

Chile

Merino: Intelligence Center Not Indispensable

PY3008025089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, commander in chief of the Navy, has said that the existence of the CNI [National Intelligence Center] is not indispensable and that it could be dismantled without affecting Chilean life.

The member of the government junta made this statement at the Diego Portales Building after presiding over a meeting of the legislative branch. Adm Merino said that the Investigative Police, however, are indispensable for Chile. [passage omitted]

Carvajal: Center Beneficial

PY3008034489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal has said that it is beneficial for Chile to maintain the National Intelligence Center, CNI, but not as a political police.

The minister made this statement after the ceremony at the Red Hall of the Foreign Ministry, where Argentine Ambassador Jose Maria Alvarez de Toledo was awarded the Order of Merit Grand Cross.

[Begin recording] [Carvajal] The organization itself is beneficial to Chile. Chile needs a center that gathers all the information and channels it to the chief of state; that is the purpose it serves.

[Reporter] Should it act as a political police or not.

[Carvajal] It should not be a political police, but rather it should be in charge of informing. That is why it is the National Intelligence Center. Currently the Carabineros, the Investigative Police, the three branches of the Armed Forces, civilian sectors, and others supply information. The objective is to have an organization that will gather all this information and to keep whoever is governing the country well informed. [end recording]

Minister Carvajal added that the fact that the CNI exists is not bad but that it can be operated wrongly. In his opinion, in the future the CNI should have the power to receive information. He added that this organization has already started to voluntarily relinquish some of its powers, such as to arrest people and to carry out police functions. He also said it has started to reduce its staff.

Historic Socialists 'Alternative' Party

PY2908034189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Excerpts] This Historic Socialist Party has become an alternative to the socialist blocs headed by Clodomiro

Almeyda and Jorge Arrate after registering with a list of almost 10,000 supporters from three regions of the country.

Juan Gutierrez, president of the Historic Socialist Party, said that the faction had withdrawn because they disagree with Jorge Arrate who had allowed a group headed by Camilo Quesada join his faction. Gutierrez said that one must differentiate the socialists who remained in the country from those who went abroad and split up and are not leaning toward the social democracy under the slogan: For a renewed socialism. [passage omitted]

Juan Gutierrez said that they advocate the unity of socialism but that they must be regarded as an alternative, with a rallying power and autonomy to act as well as support candidates to congress.

The Historic Socialist Party registered 2,000 supporters in the 6th region, 2,300 in the 7th region, and 5,400 in the 8th region, but according to their estimate they have some 23,000 supporters in the process of registering.

Colombia

Barco Said To Reject De Greiff's Resignation

PA2908151289 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Summary from poor reception] "Colombian Justice Minister Monica de Greiff briefed President Virgilio Barco on her meetings in Washington with top U.S. officials." The minister, "whose resignation was turned down by the president," arrived in Washington "amid unusually tight security measures" to discuss with "U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh" and other top U.S. officials actions "against drug traffickers." "For security reasons, Minister de Greiff is staying at a secret location provided by the U.S. FBI and DEA because of death threats against her and her 3-year-old son."

De Greiff Not To Resign

PA2908172189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1645 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Washington, 29 Aug (REUTER)—Colombian Justice Minister Monica de Greiff, the target of death threats by the drug cartels, said today she will stay in her job and will return to the country to help her government in the war on drug traffickers.

"Contrary to what you may have heard, I intend to return to Colombia once my meetings here end next week and will continue in my post as justice minister," De Greiff said at a news conference held at the Colombian Embassy in Washington.

500 Judges Announce Joint Resignation

PA2908215689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2030 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Aug (EFE)—Five hundred Colombian judges have announced their "joint resignation" in protest of the abolition of the jury, which makes the judges fully responsible for a sentence. The judges have also complained that they do not have enough official protection.

The Judicial Branch National Association [Asociacion Nacional del Poder Judicial] (ASONAL) reported today that the government decision—which became effective on 28 August—"represents a grave danger for the judges, because they are fully responsible for declaring a person guilty and condemning the culprits."

A group of litigant lawyers also announced today that they will not participate in public hearings until the reinstatement of the jury, whose abolition they consider unconstitutional.

ASONAL Secretary General Orlando Morales told EFE that the joint resignation involves 550 judges in Bogota and Cundinamarca, the department in which the country's capital is located.

The resignation could be announced during the weekend as a "continuation" of the 16 August strike, when 4,600 judges demanded more protection to do their work, Morales added.

More than 200 officials have been murdered since the Colombian justice system began its struggle against the drug lords in 1981.

Three judges have been murdered so far this year. They were in charge of cases against the most sought after drug trafficking leaders in the country. The cases were later dropped.

Colombian Justice Minister Monica de Greiff traveled to the United States on 25 August to request $2.5 million in aid to guarantee the protection of Colombian judges and their relatives.

The minister and her 3-year-old son have been threatened by the drug trafficking mafias.

Government Refuses To Talk With Traffickers

PA3008025189 Paris AFP in Spanish 0150 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Aug (AFP)—Today the Colombian Government refused to engage in talks with drug traffickers, rejecting a proposal made in a letter to President Virgilio Barco by Fabio Ochoa, father of the leaders of the so-called Medellin Cartel.

"This proves how drastic are the measures adopted by the Barco administration," Communications Minister Carlos Lemos, who is in charge of the Justice Ministry,

said. In statements to the press, Lemos said there could be no talks with people outside the law.

In another turn of events, Minister Lemos said no decision had yet been made on the extradition of drug traffickers required by foreign law, especially the United States.

Lemos added, extradition procedures require certain steps be taken, among which is the detailed examination of the documents other countries send.

In conclusion, the minister said that the National Drug Council has not met to consider the steps on property expropriation and extraditions.

Person of 'Arab Origin' Arrested in Galan Case

PA2908183189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1757 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Aug (AFP)—General Miguel Maza Marquez, chief of the Colombian Administrative Department of Security (DAS), today confirmed foreign participation in the assassination of Luis Carlos Galan, senator and Liberal Party presidential candidate, on 18 August in Bogota.

"A person of Arab origin is under arrest and seems to be quite involved in the crime," Maza Marquez said after meeting with President Virgilio Barco to discuss new measures to protect presidential candidates.

Further on Suspects Arrested

PA2908193989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1817 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Aug (AFP)—Foreign criminals, including a person of Arab origin, participated in the assassination of Senator Luis Carlos Galan, the Liberal Party presidential candidate who was gunned down in Bogota on 18 August, according to General Miguel Maza Marquez, chief of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS).

"There is a person of Arab origin, who apparently has been linked closely to the crime," Maza Marquez told the media today after meeting with Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas, with whom he discussed the drafting of new security measures to protect the presidential candidates.

The suspect, Jubis Hazvumb [spelling as received], who was arrested along with four other Colombians in Bogota 2 days after Galan's assassination, "is very much involved," said Maza, who in late May was the target of a dynamite attack carried out in Bogota, in which he was not wounded.

"We have received enough evidence to confirm that foreigners participated in Senator Galan's assassination," the DAS chief said. He added that the investigations that have been carried out to locate the perpetrators have so far been successful.

"We have reached the conclusion that many people were involved in Galan's murder and that it was well-planned," Maza said.

He also announced that the presidential candidates will receive, starting today, additional personal security provided by the government.

'Powerful' Bombs Explode in Medellin, Bogota

PA2908143689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1350 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Aug (DPA)—Seven powerful bombs were set off in Bogota and Medellin early this morning in what seems to be the continuation of the "war" declared by the drug traffickers in reprisal for the major blows they have been dealt by the authorities in various areas of Colombia.

According to the initial police reports, six bombs exploded in Medellin, the country's second-largest city, where the response from the drug dealers has been more strongly felt in recent days.

The bombs were placed in liquor stores where, according to official estimates, the damage is extensive.

Medellin was the first city hit by the drug cartel's "counterattack" after the so-called "Extraditables" issued a communique in which they vowed to wage a "war" on the government, judges, businessmen, and journalists nationwide. The Extraditables are drug traffickers sought by U.S. courts.

On Sunday, nine bombs exploded and completely destroyed several state-owned banks.

Meanwhile, another bomb exploded in Bogota in front of a travel agency, but the extent of the damage has yet to be reported.

The intense offensive by President Virgilio Barco's administration began 2 weeks ago in the wake of a number of criminal attacks that claimed the lives of presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan, a high-ranking police officer, and a judge.

The police reported today that for the first time, combined Army and police forces raided several properties owned by Hernando Suarez Burgos, [words indistinct] the ruling Liberal Party, in southwestern Narino Department.

Units of the elite forces, the main ones involved in the operations, also raided the private residence of businessman Edgardo Barros, president of the Sporting Soccer Club of (?Cali).

Police spokesmen also reported today that more than 7,000 people who had been arrested since the beginning of the offensive were released when it was fully proven they had no links with the drug mafias.

Meanwhile, approximately 4,000 people remain in custody awaiting judicial rulings.

Government Source Announces Detainees' Release

PA2908224389 Paris AFP in Spanish 2054 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Aug (AFP)—The Colombian Defense Ministry in Bogota confirmed today that at least three-fourths of the 10,797 people arrested after Senator Luis Carlos Galan's murder on 18 August have been released.

The releases took place as the preventive arrest deadlines established in the state of siege decrees issued on 25 August by President Virgilio Barco's liberal government began to expire.

Colonel Eduardo Arevalo, press director for the Defense Ministry, told AFP that the authorities could only detain suspects for 7 working days.

It is quite different when arrests are made on specific drug trafficking charges, he explained.

"There are no exact figures regarding the persons released, but I can assure you that at least three-fourths of the detainees are involved," Col Arevalo said.

That proportion of the almost 10,797 detentions made during the operations carried out throughout the country against common criminals and presumed accomplices of the drug trafficking mafias, leads to the assumption that approximately 3,500 people remain in custody at the jails, police inspection offices, and other branches.

The legal situation of these individuals will be established as their terms expire in accordance with the law, Arevalo said.

Arevalo explained to AFP that there have been a few difficulties regarding those who have been detained and arrested, adding that the difficulties stem from the work stoppage in the judicial branch in protest over the assassination of Justice Carlos Valencia in Bogota.

He said that among the detainees are three individuals who could be extradited to the United States.

One of the Extraditables is Eduardo Martinez Romero, captured while he was vacationing on his farm in Tolu, a village in the northwestern province of Sucre on the Caribbean coast, approximately 750 km from Bogota, and his transfer to the United States could come at any moment.

The procedures for Martinez Romero's extradition were carried out uneventfully after the U.S. Embassy made the request. However, it has been reported that his extradition may be postponed for a few days because the Supreme Court suspended the deadlines for the election of justices at 27 higher courts.

The Supreme Court's constitutional chamber and the attorney general have 10 working days to state their positions regarding the legality of the executive decrees, without which the government would have to abstain from authorizing future extraditions.

"We must not act hastily because we do not want to make errors. Some of the Extraditables may be innocent," Communications Minister Carlos Lemus told AFP.

Medellin Mayor Urges Dialogue in Drug War

PA2908225889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] As dynamite attacks by the Extraditables continue in Medellin, the city's Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez, has scored the government for having declared war on the mafia without having the necessary resources to confront it.

In the opinion of the mayor, the best way to fight drug trafficking is to talk with the Extraditables.

A letter from Fabio Ochoa Restrepo proposing a new and clean start to President Barco was made known today.

[Begin recording] [Gomez Martinez] The president spoke about the country's situation. He spoke of war. If we are at war, and I said this at the Government Ministry during a meeting with the minister of defense and the acting justice minister, public forces should be sent to Medellin. The ministers told me, however, that it is impossible to send more public forces to Medellin, which means: Defend yourselves the best way you can.

[Reporter] How many more secret agents and uniformed policemen do you need to face the battle in Medellin, Mr Mayor?

[Gomez Martinez] I have said we need a force as large as that which exists in Bogota, which has a population twice as large as that of Medellin, but that is half as secure as Medellin. That would be an adequate force. With that kind of force we would be able to pacify Medellin.

[Reporter] How much of the $65 million that the government has assigned to the struggle will go to Medellin?

[Gomez Martinez] So far not a penny. We have seen no helicopters, no new weapons in Medellin. What we have now is what we have had for years. [end recording]

The letter that Fabio Ochoa Restrepo—the father of three of the Extraditables—has sent to President Barco has been made public. In that letter, Ochoa Restrepo calls for talks and a crusade to put an end to drug trafficking in Colombia. In the letter, Ochoa Restrepo evokes Christ and his teachings on forgiveness and calls for a new and clean start. The letter to the president states: Let them stop everything: no more drug trafficking, wars, killings, bombs, or fires.

[Begin Recording] [Reporter] What do you think of this letter from Fabio Ochoa to the president?

[Gomez Martinez] I believe that this is not just the position of Mr Fabio Ochoa. Many people believe that talks are necessary to achieve peace, that nothing can

justify more bloodshed in Colombia, and that Colombia has to advance by searching for peace, not for war. [end recording]

* Public Polled on U.S. Intervention

53002136Z Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 22 Aug 89 p 21

[Text] The National Polling Center has just completed the first survey in Colombia on Colombians' opinion regarding the possibility that North American troops may come to Colombia to fight narcotics traffickers. To the question "Would you be willing for American Marines to come to Colombia to fight narcotics trafficking groups?" the answer, for the four largest cities and socioeconomic status, was as follows:

	YES	NO
Bogota	19%	81%
Medellin	30%	70%
Cali	42%	58%
Barranquilla	24%	76%
Upper Class	33.3%	66.7%
Middle Class	26%	74%
Lower Class	24.1%	75.9%

Political Campaigning To Expand to Media

PA3008033989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Report on agreement signed on 28 August at Narino Palace allowing presidential candidates to campaign on television—passages in quotations recorded]

[Text] An agreement was reached on 28 August at Narino Palace at the conclusion of a meeting presided over by President Barco. The the director of the Liberal Party, the ministers of defense and communications, the presidential aspirants of the Liberal Party (PL), and the director of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS] also attended the meeting.

No time has been set yet for the presidential aspirants' television campaign programs, but it has been reported that it will be sometime between 2000 and 2200 hours. Programs will last a maximum of 5 minutes.

Presidential aspirant Alberto Santofimio: "I believe that we are going to have something good in Colombia in spite of the situation the country is enduring right now because politics will be on television, within some limits, of course. One has to be careful with the use of television time to prevent people from getting bored with speeches. We will ask the Conservative Party and the Patriotic Union for their opinion on this. We are pleased with any possibility of expanding the political campaign to the media, something that is not incompatible with campaigns in open squares, the open squares to which we will soon return."

PL presidential hopeful William Jaramillo: "The Conservative Party will have to state its opinion so that at a future meeting of presidential hopefuls, the Liberal Party director, and the government there can be an agreement on how state television channels are to be used."

Regarding security measures for the presidential hopefuls, Government Minister Orlando Vasquez said: "The most important recommendation we have made is to have no night rallies. The government will not pass decrees to impede this kind of rally but for security reasons it has advised not to have rallies at night. All the presidential hopefuls have agreed with this."

Decree on Political Groups' Legal Status Issued

PA3008012589 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Aug 89 pp 1, 3-A

["Text" of decree signed by President Virgilio Barco and Government Minister Orlando Vasquez Velasquez on 16 August]

[Text] Article 1: Within the 30 days after the [political organization's] request [for legal status] has been made, the National Election Council must verify that the statutes and the latest program declaration [of the political organization] are expressly in compliance with the constitution and laws.

Article 2: To comply with the above article, the National Election Council shall ask the Government Ministry, after consulting with State Security bodies, its opinion regarding the requestor's compliance with the regulation included in Paragraph B), Article 2, of Law 58 passed in 1985. The Government Ministry shall reply within the next 10 days after the relevant request from the National Election Council is made.

Article 3: The requestor will not have complied with the regulation included in Paragraph B), Article 2, of Law 58 passed in 1985 if:
1) The statutes or the latest program declaration include provisions or expressions that violate the Constitution or laws, such as the defense, instigation, or support for activities that violate the law or support for conduct that is sanctioned by Colombian laws.
2) The board of directors of the political organization making the request has publicly expressed its support for activities that violate the public order or support for conduct that is sanctioned by the current laws.

Article 4: If during the verification process to see if the organization fulfills the requirements included in the basic statute of political parties, the National Election Council finally determines that the request does not comply with Paragraph B), Article 2, of Law 58 passed in 1985, the legal status of the organization and permission for its registration will not be granted.

This decision may be appealed at the courts.

Article 5: This same verification process shall be conducted by the National Election Council every 4 years

according to the provisions included in Paragraph 3, Article 4, of Law 58 passed in 1985.

Minister Comments on U.S. Coffee Pact Position

PA3008042889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Report by Armando Salazar]

[Text] The United States insists that coffee sales to countries that are not members of the International Coffee Agreement should be controlled. It has also insisted that light coffee supplies should be larger. This, however, clashes with the interests of Brazil and other countries that produce the strong coffee variety.

The world's largest coffee consumer has not changed its position very much.

[Begin Finance Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon recording] It is important to see if there is going to be any change of policy that would permit a renegotiation of the international coffee pact, to see if there will be flexibility in the analysis of positions. [end recording]

Colombia trusts that at the meeting of the International Coffee Council to take place in London at the end of September, the U.S. delegations will adopt a conciliatory position to permit the revival of the International Coffee Agreement.

[Begin Alarcon recording] Some countries adopted certain positions believing that they were going to benefit from the breaking of the pact but no one has benefited from that. All producer countries have been negatively affected. This fact does not need too much explanation because international prices speak for themselves. [end recording]

The enthusiasm produced by a U.S. State Department statement on the coffee pact quickly disappeared when the U.S. Embassy in Bogota issued a communique reiterating positions that prevented the continuation of the international agreement.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Not To Attend UN General Assembly

PY2908211489 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 29 Aug 89 p 12

[Excerpt] According to sources close to the Presidency, President General Andres Rodriguez will not attend the next UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York because he has already made other appointments for that time.

President Rodriguez was invited to take part in the UNGA, which will start on 25 September. Reportedly, he was also invited to address the delegations attending this important international meeting.

According to the source, however, the president had already made a series of appointments in Paraguay for the last 2 weeks in September. These appointments, which Rodriguez considers extremely important for the country, will make it impossible for him to attend the UNGA. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns From OAS Meeting

PY2808122689 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 27 Aug 89 p 6

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana, who participated in the consultative meetings of the foreign ministers of the OAS member countries in Washington, returned to Paraguay yesterday. During the meetings, the issue of Panama was discussed. [passage omitted]

Official Expresses Support for Colombia

PY3008011689 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Regarding the Colombian president's dramatic speech, the only Latin American governments to express their support were those of Ecuador, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

In remarks to international journalists, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Hugo Saguier Caballero stated that Colombia can count on the solidarity of the Paraguayan Government, whose authorities, he said, have decided to fight drug trafficking head on.

Military Schools Hold Joint Maneuvers

PY2808221289 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Aug 89 p 12

[Excerpt] The office of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the nation has disclosed that as of today the Armed Forces Staff and Command School and the Officers Higher Training School are carrying out joint maneuvers in the zone of Paraguari. This information has been disclosed to avoid alarming the inhabitants of the neighboring towns.

According to the military sources, the maneuvers will last until 1800 on Friday, 1 September, and they will cover the areas between the towns of Paraguari and Piribebuy. [passage omitted]

Warrant Issued for Former Police Chief

PY2908132289 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Aug 89 p 58

[Excerpt] Dr Nelson Alcides Mora, a judge of the fourth criminal court, has issued an arrest warrant for the former police chief, General Francisco Alcibiades Britez Borges, retired; and the former investigative police chief, Pastor Milciades Corone. They have been charged with human rights violations against Amilcar Maria Oviedo Duarte in the mid-1970's.

According to the judge's ruling, the defendants' property, valued at 3 million guaranies each, has been impounded.

In this same case, an arrest warrant and a 3-million-guarani attachment were issued for Lucilo Benitez, alias "Cururu Pire" ("Toad skin" in Guarani language), for whom an arrest warrant had already been issued.

According to the judge, there are serious charges against the defendants concerning the events under investigation: abduction, illegal deprivation of freedom, abuse of authority, torture, and suspected homicide. [passage omitted]

Relations With Communist Countries Rejected

PY2908144089 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Aug 89 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana yesterday said at Government House that President Rodriguez "would not support rapprochement with the communist world, not even for commercial purposes." Argana made this remark in answer to U.S. Ambassador Timothy Towell's declaration that he did not see anything wrong with establishing commercial relations with communist countries.

Argana said: "According to our Constitution, the person responsible for our foreign relations is the president," adding however, that he had not discussed the issue with the president but asserted: "I think he would not approve it, not even for commercial purposes, unless of course the deal offers very clear benefits for the country and does not affect us politically."

"Perhaps we can trade with them, using another country as middleman, because although the trade is not dangerous, there is the possibility that infiltration can come with it," the minister said.

Asked the reasons behind his position, Argana said: "My main objection is ideological or dogmatic. I also believe that these objections can be adjusted with time, as other countries have done."

"You should consider our very radical position on those issues. We have to wait for things to settle. We have to get used to a different attitude on these issues," the minister said.

Guyana

Joint Border Dispute Commission With Suriname

FL2608132989 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte has wrapped up a 3-day visit to Suriname.

Mr Hoyte says the two governments have agreed to establish a joint commission to examine the border dispute between Guyana and Suriname. The commission will hold its first meeting next month.

Mr Hoyte is the first Guyanese head of state to visit Suriname.

Open Letter Supports Hoyte's Economic Program

FL2908194889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1524 GMT 27 Aug 89

[All names as received]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 27, CANA—A group of 58 prominent Guyanese has sent President Desmond Hoyte an open letter throwing their support behind him and his government's tough economic recovery programme (ERP) and encouraging "constructive dialogue" between "the established political parties".

The undated letter released to the media through the official GUYANA PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY (GPCA), is seen here as a response to an open letter on electoral reform signed by 36 well-known Guyanese and published in sections of the local media two weeks ago as a paid advertisement.

That letter which had called for electoral reform and which was considered critical of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) drew a sharp response from the PNC which was critical of, among other things, the authors' suggesting that the country's economic recovery is linked to the question of electoral reform.

And, this week, the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) announced that it has launched a public signature campaign in support of electoral reform.

Among those who signed the open letter to the president are the president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dennis Moore, president of the Guyana Manufacturers' Association Alston "Kim" Kissoon, businessmen Yacoob Ally and Azam Ally of the big sawmilling firm A. Mazaharally and Sons, president of the Guyana Forestry Products Association, a number of other businessmen and a number of lawyers including Edward Luckhoo, medical doctors and religious and University of Guyana personalities.

The text of the open letter to the president reads:

"We are of the opinion that the economic recovery programme of the government is essential and deserves the support of all of the citizens of Guyana. We are satisfied that it provides a rational and reasonable means of restoring economic stability and the building of a sound foundation for the future growth and development of our country.

"We believe that there is no alternative to government's programme for economic recovery which involves an IMF-monitored agreement, financially supported by a group of friendly donor nations enabling Guyana to clear

its international debt arrears, reschedule outstanding debts and receive balance of payments and project financing assistance.

"We recognise and support the clearly demonstrated desire by government to discuss the provisions of the 1989 budget within the context of the economic recovery programme for the purpose of accommodating adjustments found to be practical and in the overall interest of the workers, the manufacturers and the business community.

"As citizens, we encourage constructive dialogue between the established political parties for the purpose of furthering the national effort at economic recovery and in order to contribute to the maintenance of democracy and stability in Guyana.

"We fully support the president's demonstrated commitment to a democratic system of government guaranteeing the rights of every citizen to freely choose a government of his/her choice at periodic elections held in accordance with the Constitution and in observance of the law," the letter ends.

The following is the full list of signatories:

Edward A. Luckhoo, Chris Fernandes, David de Groot, Dr. Burton Gajadar, Dawn Murray, Dr. Carl Niamatali, Alfred Mekdeci, Reggie Lopes, Bruce Vieira, Alfred Mekdeci (Jr), Patrick Perreira, Dennis Moore, Azam Ally (Mazaharally), Rev. Una Barker, Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, John Willems, Joe Veira (Sr), Yacoob Ally (Mazaharally), Mohamed H. Hack, Dr. Billy Fung-a-Fat, Cherly Lopes, Anand Persaud, Ron Robinson, Lyla Kissoon, Haji A. Rahaman, David Klautky, Compton Young, Edward Boyer, A.L. (Kim) Kissoon, Leo Ramotar, J. Narain Sawh, Rev. P.O. Wharton, Rev Gilbert Harris, Dr. Victor Forsythe, Elizabeth Yasin-Khan, Jerrard C. Mekdeci, Dr. Phillip da Silva, Macadeen Ameerali, Somal Rampersaud, Professor Joycelyn Loncke, Professor Frank Long, Brenda Aaron, A. Hassan Ali, Hans W. Barrow, Ceciline Baird, Denise Harper, Harry Jaipaul, Ivor Sakoor, Leon Willems, Mervin Wray, Eric Clarke, Anande Trotman, R. Mathur, Andrew Mekdeci, Carlton Maraj, Wendell Bobb, Herbie Dyer and Roy Mohammed.

Plans To Reform Electoral Process Proposed

FL2608030589 Bridgetown CANA in English
2508 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 25, CANA—The Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) has announced the launching of a signature campaign in support of a campaign to press for electoral reform here. The association said the campaign was launched in response to suggestions from many quarters that there should be support for an open letter on electoral reform signed and published as a paid advertisement by 36 prominent Guyanese two weeks ago. It said that in response to the suggestions, it will be providing an opportunity for all Guyanese over 18 years of age to support the proposals made in the open letter.

In that letter, the prominent Guyanese citizens—including Anglican Bishop Randolph George, a co-president of the GHRA, and Roman Catholic Bishop Benedict Singh—had said that "a satisfactory resolution of the elections issue cannot be postponed any longer."

They had also called for the creation of an acceptable elections commission which should be "the sole, impartial and independent authority" with respect to the entire electoral process and for local and overseas observers to be allowed to monitor and scrutinize every aspect of the electoral process.

"The GHRA believes that widespread discussion and analysis of these proposals is the first necessary step towards free and fair elections. The association also firmly supports the reason which motivated the open letter, namely that reform of the electoral process is the necessary foundation for any sustained improvement in the economic and social life of the nation," the GHRA said in a statement announcing its signature campaign.

Union Federation Regroups, Elects Officers

FL2808222289 Bridgetown CANA in English
1821 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 26, CANA—The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) has regrouped and on Friday took a number of decisions intended to keep it on track.

At its meeting, held at headquarters of the Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU), the federation decided to get up a secretariat, elected a new chairman, named an executive secretary, and fixed October 21 and 22 as the date for its first delegates' conference.

The federations's decisions come in the wake of a lull in its activities which had resulted from internal wranglings over the manner in which recent prolonged FITUG-backed anti-budget strikes in the bauxite and sugar belts ended and over the financing of the strikes.

CCWU President Gordon Todd, formerly the federation's vice chairman, was elected chairman to replace George Daniels, who left the country early April and is said to be in the United States but about whom nothing much has been heard since.

Komal Chand, general secretary of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) will serve as Todd's deputy.

The secretariat will be headed by former executive secretary of the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU), Leslie Melville, who was fired by the GPSU in April when he refused to withdraw certain remarks about Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte.

FITUG was formed last October after seven unions, including the GPSU, walked out of the 35th annual delegate's conference of the Guyana Trades Union Congress (GTUC) demanding changes in the TUC rules and protesting against the conduct of elections for members of the GTUC Executive Council. Since then, the GPSU whose then President George Daniels, was elected to head FITUG, has withdrawn from the federation.

The six current members of the federation are the two sugar unions—GAWU and the National Association of Agricultural Commercial, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE)—the two bauxite unions—the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU) and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisor's Union (GBSU)—the CCWU, and the University of Guyana Workers' Union (UGWU).

Melville said FITUG has written the Ministry of Finance seeking an audience with members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation now here reviewing the performance of the economy but, to date, has received no response.

The executive of the TUC, as well as representatives of the Guyana Manufacturers' Association (GMA) have already met and held discussions with the IMF representatives.

Suriname

Shankar Says Ties With Guyana Could Increase

FL2508181289 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The bilateral cooperation between Suriname and Guyana can be intensified if communication between the two countries is improved. This was stated by President Ramsewak Shankar last Wednesday [23 August] during a reception in honor of Guyana's head of state, Desmond Hoyte, who is on an official visit to our country.

The Surinamese head of state, among others, urged for the speedy implementation of the joint (?ferry) project.

President Hoyte in reply said that Guyana will support Suriname's membership to Caricom, the Caribbean Common Market.

The Guyanese president has yesterday visited the border district of Nickerie. He also had an informal meeting with the chairman of the Military Authority, Commander Desi Bouterse.

President Hoyte ends his visit to Suriname today.

Guyana Allows Dam on Courantyne River

FL2808182189 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Guyana is agreeing to allow Suriname to build a dam on a river separating the two countries. The agreement came during Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte's 3-day visit to Suriname this past week.

Suriname will build the dam on a tributary of the Courantyne River, but no date has been set for its completion. Suriname will receive hydroelectric power from the dam, with any excess power being sent to Guyana. Mr Hoyte's visit was also marked by the establishment of a joint commission to settle a border dispute between the two countries.

Documents Seized From Human Rights Activist

FL2608133789 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Surinamese military police have seized documents and letters from (Anton Druke), a member of a Surinamese human rights organization. The confiscation took place at Zanderij airport near Paramaribo. The human rights activist is actually a Dutch citizen and his immigration card was reportedly taken from him.

The director of the organization, Stanley Rensch, has expressed anger at the actions of the military police.

Pokigron Villagers in Building, Demand Housing

FL2508185289 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] One hundred and fifty homeless persons from the Pokigron Village have yesterday occupied the buildings at the (Anthony Ness) [words indistinct] complex. According to Captain (Tomigraf) from Pokigron, the villagers have taken this action because they can no longer [words indistinct] the conditions under which they lived in Paramaribo.

The village captain said that the people will not leave the building until the government guarantees good housing facilities.

The residents of the Pokigron Village had to flee to Paramaribo earlier this year after their village was burned down by members of the terrorist gang of Brunswijk.